



# CNY Cat Coalition

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

Winter 2005

Volume 2 Issue 1

## CNYCC Works with Community Partners to Find Homes for Kitties



*Setting up the PETsMART Adoption and Volunteer Program was almost a fulltime job for CNYCC volunteer Pat Chambers.*

More CNY Cat Coalition cats and kittens are being adopted into “forever homes” thanks to our partnerships with two generous and committed organizations—a national chain store and a Long Island animal shelter.

### **PETsMART Is Adoption Central**

Because we are “a shelter without walls,” we have not had a central place where local residents can meet our cats. But in June, when PETsMART opened its first Syracuse store on Erie Blvd. it became “adoption central.” Within two days of placing cats in the store, we had our first adoption. We have averaged two adoptions a week, placing about 50 cats by the end of December from the four to five cages we use. Animal Aid of Cortland uses the rest of the nine cages allotted for adoptions.

PETsMART Adoption Centers have facilitated almost two million adoptions in the past 10 years in stores all over the United States and Canada. Rescue groups provide the cats and volunteers, while PETsMART provides food, litter, toys, cleaning supplies and cages.

Nearly 40 CNYCC volunteers and ten Animal Aid volunteers staff the Adoption Center. Coordinator Pat Chambers of the Cat Coalition says that PETsMART is a great resource—for adoptions, donations, and exposure to the local community. “It is the ideal location to communicate with pet owners and other animal lovers and broadcast many of our needs and messages concerning fostering, spay and neuter, and ‘trap, neuter, and release.’ ”

When PETsMART opens a second store in Cicero in the spring our kitties will be there.



### **North Shore Animal League Loves Central New York Kitties**

During our year-and-a-half relationship with North Shore Animal League we have brought more than 700 kittens and young adult cats to Long Island for adoption. The staff has often remarked about the health and beauty of our cats, many of whom could tell stories of great neglect, abuse, deprivation and danger on busy city streets, under porches or behind local businesses. We nurture them until they are healthy, sociable and very adoptable.

North Shore is the largest animal adoption agency in the country, placing animals in loving and safe homes in the large New York City and Long Island area.

We are proud to partner with North Shore. When our kitties make the long trip to Long Island, we know they are heading for home.



*North Shore Animal League technicians weigh in a kitten from Central New York.*

Come to our meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Geddes Town Hall. Visit our website for more info: [www.cnycatcoalition.org](http://www.cnycatcoalition.org)



**"One person can't do everything, but each person can do one thing."**



**Thank you to our volunteer drivers** to clinics and to Long Island: Marietta Rowe, Shelagh McCarron, Kate Moore, Kirsten Bellam, Pat Chambers, Tina Thibodeau, Holly Hall, Jenn King, Diana Mautino and Kay Seibert. Our apologies if we left out anyone.



*Moses and Dr. Stokes-Cawley who is a 1993 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania vet school. He opened Lyncourt Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Holly Koenig in 2000.*

What about the cats? A message from our president

## You Don't Have to be a "Cat Person" to Help Out



Many individuals and organizations came together to form the Cat Coalition nearly two years ago. In that short time, we have helped thousands of cats, many with stories of neglect and abuse, overcrowding and hunger, and danger from weather, other animals and humans.

We are working hard to deal with a serious problem of overpopulation. This problem is not the fault of the kitties. It is a problem created by people—and it is people who must solve it. If everyone did just one thing, no one person or group would have to do everything.

When you encounter a cat situation, ask yourself what you can do to help. If you can't adopt the cat that is hanging around your house, at least take it in when the night is freezing. Feed it, put up signs to try to locate its human or find it a new home. If you find a litter of abandoned kittens, let them stay in a spare room until they are old enough to be adopted. If an unfixated cat is hanging around your workplace, take up a collection to get it

spayed or neutered and try to find a home for it. If you are not sure what to do, call us for advice and information.

Become a volunteer with the Cat Coalition: Open your home to a cat, even temporarily as a "foster parent." Transport cats to and from spay/neuter clinics. Staff our Adoption Center at PETSMART. Help out with fundraising. Deliver food.

Everyone can do something. If you can't afford to feed strays in your neighborhood, we can provide food. If you can't afford to spay or neuter your own cat, we can help.

Even if you are "not really a cat person," you can do something: You can send us money! You can also give a cat a chance to win your heart. Something magical happens when you help a cat.

Come to our meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month to learn more about what we are doing and what you can do.

*Hollis Hall  
President, CNYCC*

## C.S.I. SYRACUSE: SAVING MOSES

CSI stands for Crime Scene Investigation on TV, but to us, CSI stands for "Cat Survival Instinct." So many cats we rescue have been abused or neglected that we marvel at their ability to survive. Often, we also act as "Cat Scene Investigators" to piece together what happened to our brave kitties before coming to us.

When a CNYCC volunteer found Moses in a ditch, he was dazed and weak. Tiny newly-hatched maggots infested his open wounds. Dr. William Stokes-Cawley of Lyncourt Animal Hospital and our volunteer figured that Moses had been hit by a car and lay wounded for many days before the maggots appeared.

Dr. Stokes-Cawley donated hours of medical and surgical care, as well as phone

advice over the course of many weeks as our volunteers nursed Moses back to health. Relieved of the burden of simply keeping himself alive, Moses began to enjoy life again. Restored to health and good looks, this regal white cat is ready for a "forever home."

Moses is just one example out of hundreds of "CSI—Syracuse" stories. Some cats are accident victims, but more often, we rescue and rehabilitate kittens mauled by vicious dogs, cats whose legs were broken by teenagers, or shoeboxes full of week-old kittens abandoned in subfreezing temperatures.

While we can't save every cat in need, with the help of local veterinarians like Dr. Stokes-Cawley, dedicated volunteers and cat lovers like you, many of these stories can have happy endings.

*Please support the work of the Central New York Cat Coalition.*

# What we are—and what we're not

We like to call the Cat Coalition “a shelter without walls.” Like traditional shelters—the ones *with* walls—we can’t accommodate all the homeless cats that people call us about. Unlike many shelters with walls, though, we do lot more than find an available cage and hope someone comes to adopt so we can take in another cat in its place. We are working to reduce the problem of overpopulation—so that shelters become a thing of the past! We teach people how to help the kitties in their own neighborhoods. Here’s what we can do:

- ◆ Provide access to low-cost spaying and neutering
- ◆ Supply low-cost, nutritious food to those feeding stray cats
- ◆ Help community members build

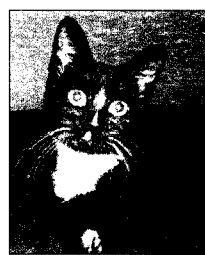
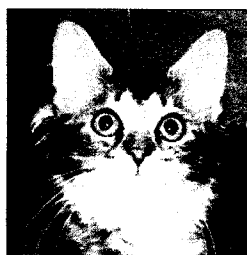
shelters for those stray cats that must remain outside

- ◆ Remove cats and kittens from dangerous situations
- ◆ Sponsor a help line to provide advice about cat situations
- ◆ Advocate for the welfare of cats in Central New York

Unfortunately, some people call our phone line and are upset when we cannot help. *We respond first to calls about abuse, neglect, and spay/neuter assistance.*

We do not have the resources to take in family cats that are no longer wanted or even every homeless cat. We wish we could—every cat deserves a loving home.

## You Can Help Change Their World



### Companies Helping



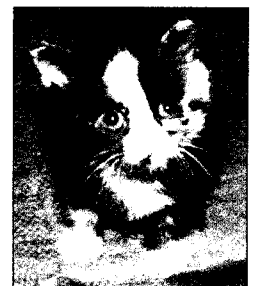
*Volunteer and board member Nancy Putnam participates at a shelter-building day. Thank you to **Home Depot** which donated building supplies for the shelters and **Will and Baumer Inc.** which has given us ongoing support by allowing us to build shelters in their warehouse and donating storage space.*

*Thank you to **Joyce Orlandella Total Financial Services** for accounting support; **Dupli Graphics** for printing and **Kinsella Quarries** for postage for this newsletter.*

### Good Food/Good Health

*We are proud of our relationship with **Chenango Valley Pet Foods** of Sherburne, NY. Thank you for making this high quality pet food affordable to us. Good food makes our cats healthy and beautiful.*

### Good Food/Good Health



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

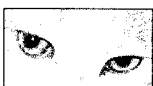
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate in memory or honor of a beloved human or animal**  
**In memory/honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send donations to CNY Cat Coalition, PO Box 572, Syracuse, NY 13209  
 CNYCC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.  
 You can also designate CNYCC to receive your United Way contribution.



*If everyone just gave a few dollars, we could eliminate the problem of cat overpopulation in our neighborhoods.*

## Cat Math: No Multiplying Please!

The Central New York Cat Coalition is working at the root of the cat overpopulation problem by focusing on spaying and neutering. Our successes are adding up—fewer and fewer cats are multiplying thanks to our volunteers and donors.

**We spayed or neutered 1,500 kitties in 2004.** Since we began in the spring of 2003, we have spayed/neutered about 2,500 cats. That all adds up to a large savings to taxpayers because municipalities don't

have to shelter or euthanize those homeless kitties and a huge relief to animal lovers.

**We had a special effort called Spay300 in 2004.** Initiated by volunteer Wendy Wilson, the program subsidized the spaying of 300 females before spring breeding season started. This initiative was extended through the year and became more like Spay1000, with the Cat Coalition transporting and paying all or part of the spaying costs of 1,000 females. Of

course, all male cats that we rescued or placed in foster and adoptive homes were neutered.. (All cats and kittens sent to North Shore are spayed/neutered there.).

Many experts estimate that a single unspayed cat, her mate, and her surviving kittens could produce up to 11,800 cats in 5 years time. So we have reduced the homeless cat population in CNY by—Oh never mind, you'll have to do the math—we don't like multiplying!



*Kittens are cute, but spaying and neutering can make a dream come true: No more homeless cats.*

**Want to adopt a cat? Volunteer? Donate? Need advice?  
Contact the Central New York Cat Coalition at: 289-CATS (289-2287)  
We're also on the web: <http://www.cnycatcoalition.org>**

 CNY Cat Coalition

PO Box 572  
Syracuse, NY 13209

