

# CAT ANGEL NETWORK

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Together we CAN make a difference

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## **CAT ANGEL NETWORK, INC.** **2002/03 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **CAT ANGEL NETWORK** **MISSION STATEMENT**

- ♥ To alleviate suffering of stray cats through rescue, spay/neuter, shelter in a no-kill facility and adoption to approved homes.
  - ♥ To educate the public re proper care of cats and the importance of spaying and neutering.
  - ♥ Our shelter is operated by an all-volunteer staff
- CAN is a 501(c)(3) non profit, no kill charitable organization –

HAPPY HOLLY SPAYS AND A  
HAPPY NEW(TER) YEAR TOO  
(See insert)

## **THE ISLAND OF MISFIT TOYS**

*Submitted by Henry Grabb*

One of my favorite holiday programs has always been **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**. I watch it every year, and must admit crying a little when Herbie, Rudolph, and Yukon Cornelius get to the island of misfit toys. The boat that sinks, the squirt gun that shoots jelly, the Charlie-in-the-Box, all just wanting to belong to someone. At the end of the story, they sit on the ice block on Christmas Eve, sure that Santa has forgotten them yet another year - *but just then*, they hear the jingle in the distance . . . .

Cat Angel Network has many cats who might be considered "misfits." They range from just a bit too shy to show at PetSmart, to slightly disabled, to FIV or FeLV positive. These cats are waiting for you to open your hearts to them. With your love, they will no longer need to feel like misfits. Can you be the jingle in the distance that they have been waiting for?

## **NEVER JUDGE A CAT BY ITS COVER!**

*Submitted by Dawn Budetto*

Having recently lost a dear companion and friend, I decided to adopt through Cat Angel and went to PetSmart to look over the candidates. Cage by cage I visited and assessed the candidates. Having always been a believer that the animal adopts the owner, I waited for signals and signs - a paw extended, a look, a meow, a glance of recognition... One cat in particular - **Toby** - was hiding under his bedding, clearly wishing to be invisible and not wanting any part of this adoption process. Poor guy had been abandoned, adopted, and then returned to CAN. Trauma had obviously taken its toll, I thought. Certainly not the cat for us, and I continued on. Visiting on another occasion, Toby still only peered out from under his bed and as before, respecting his privacy, I passed him by.

Believing that I had found a cat that would be just right for us, I brought my husband to the store to see my selection. He went by all the cages, stopped in front of Toby's cage and said, "I like this one". Something was recognized between the two and chemistry exploded. Toby, now out from under his covers, rubbed across the bars, extended his paw and chatted. It was as though he had just been waiting for this moment to emerge.

Within a few days Toby came home with us. Poor Toby had been declawed on all four paws so he used his mouth to express dislike and would clamp his teeth firmly on you to let you know when he didn't like something. He never broke your skin, but he firmly warned you. We respected Toby's boundaries and within two months this behavior ceased as Toby realized he was now safe, and that we honored his boundaries. Toby has become the refined, loving, sweet gentleman that he tried so hard to hide. Never a more gentle, sweet and kind cat could we have found. I thank Toby every day for hiding and waiting for husband, and confirming that cats do indeed adopt their families.

## **WANTED/NEEDED - MAIL SPONSORS**

We are looking for people to help sponsor our newsletter mailings. A roll of 100 stamps is \$37 and we use many rolls for every mailing. We are pleased, of course, to report that our mailing list continues to grow. We would be most grateful to receive rolls, books, or any number of stamps you can send us.

## **WANT TO HAVE YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED BUT CAN'T AFFORD IT?**

THE SPAYED CLUB CAN HELP. DON'T WAIT AND RISK BEING FACED WITH AN UNWANTED LITTER OF KITTENS OR PUPPIES. BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION TO PET OVERPOPULATION – NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM! CALL 610-275-7486 FOR HELP. ALL REQUESTS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

**ATTENTION:**  
YOU CAN NOW ACCESS OUR  
NEWSLETTER ONLINE  
SEE OUR WEBSITE –  
[CATANGEL.COM](http://CATANGEL.COM)

Please let us know if you want to have your name deleted from our mailing list.

# PUPPY PUPPET

First of all, I must tell you that Puppy Puppet is a very small black and white tuxedo kitty that I rescued and nursed back to health last summer. She had been seriously injured after being tossed outside during a hurricane in as a 6-weeks old kitten with a raging fever and her eye severely injured. She recuperated in my bedroom (a few extra months were tacked onto her recovery period - hmmm). She learned to do "acrobats" as a way of begging for attention. Now when I say that word, she automatically does her little performance for me. Well, that's to introduce you to this little angel so you can understand her fierce loyalty and protective instincts for her personal angel (that would me!)

I woke up with a jolt at 5 a.m. to a savage-sounding growl-hiss! My little Puppy Puppet was making sounds like I'd never heard from a cat. She was posturing and clawing at the sliding glass doors in my bedroom with vicious snarls that would make a Doberman watch dog cringe. I jumped out of bed to find two huge raccoons on my back deck with their faces plastered against the sliding doors, peering in at me, their paws scratching to get through the glass. Good thing the glass doors were closed or they might have tried to join me in bed. I banged on the glass and hollered a lot - but they were determined to find out what this strange enclosure, otherwise known as a bedroom, was all about. I finally succeeded in persuading them to go elsewhere and watch something other than Puppy Puppet and me. I guess they finally got my message that they were certainly more than welcome to visit the cabana at the back of the property, there to stuff their little tummies with the cat food I put out each day for my feral colony. It was very disconcerting to find two unfamiliar, bandit masked faces peering in at my sleeping body, but now I know that I'm safe as long as my Puppy Puppet is on guard duty!

## **DATABASE ASSISTANCE NEEDED!**

### Volunteer Wanted:

CAN wants to upgrade its existing database, and is seeking a volunteer to make the necessary changes to its Access 2002 database structure. If you are interested in finding out how you can help CAN in this way, please contact Roger Savage at [RSavage@entermail.net](mailto:RSavage@entermail.net).

### AHA! SO THAT'S HOW YOU CAN TELL!

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know that?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

## **JOYS OF A BED HOG**

*Submitted by Cindy Kem*

She came to us at the end of winter - one small, elderly cat who had suffered too many sudden changes in her life. She had been overwhelmed by the death of her person, the loss of her home, grief, life as a permanent shelter resident with other cats when she had no feline social skills, and a tumor on her thyroid gland that was almost certainly malignant. She needed a place where she could lie in the sun to watch the birds and squirrels until she would eventually join her person. We accepted her into our home so that she would experience a final kindness.

**WRONG!** We were confronted with five pounds of screaming, hissing, wailing, and moaning aggression! She resembled nothing more than a museum skeleton over which someone had thrown a much-used faux fur rug. Hair was falling out in large clumps from the thyroid disease as well as her fights at the shelter. We could count her vertebrae and see her ribs, hip and shoulder bones protruding. She had a nasty growth under her left eye, and we were totally unable to pet her without first running for antiseptic and bandages. She was so aggressive that we had no choice but to crate her.

Stress caught up with her again and she was rushed to the emergency room within a few days with a severe upper respiratory infection. **Pookie** (yes, her) was so congested that she could only breathe through her mouth. My hat is off to our vet and the staff that managed to give her nose drops! I visited her almost every day or night of the ten days that she was in isolation; she soon responded to my visits with eager purrs although it is difficult to purr and sneeze at the same time! She would come out of her cage to sit on my lap, purring, sneezing, and bubbling. Before she left, our vet gave her a "mask" of anesthetic and removed the now enlarged and bleeding growth on her eye. Our vet also told me that Pookie's only hope was radioactive iodine treatment although that was quite expensive. Pookie had very high levels of thyroid hormone pouring into her body despite the fact that she was on extremely high levels of medication.

We brought her home to my bedroom, a custom cat tree that Al had built, and her own set of toys. She still had no feline social skills and soon terrified poor Maude. We were giving her Interferon every other week for the respiratory problem, and we noticed that her behavior would improve slightly the week after she had taken the drug. Even her blood tests showed an improvement, but she remained nervous, irritable, and aggressive. She was definitely suffering, and so were we as well as our other cats.

We discovered that she would walk in the yard in a harness and leash, that she liked to ride around standing on my shoulders, and that she liked to sit on my lap for brief periods of time. She cried piteously if she lost sight of me or if I left the house, but she would lie quietly on her cat tree if we shut the door to the bedroom before we left. We worked on temper and tolerance with her and she made some progress, but eventually we were faced with the only decision we could make: radioactive iodine treatment.

She has had two treatments now, and should not need another. Her hair is silky smooth and she weighs almost nine pounds. She loves to sit on my lap and to watch the CNN news banner. Her emotional dependence on me has not lessened, although she now can sit in the window to watch the birds and squirrels without my presence. Our other cats are still wary of her but there seems to be some type of truce. She has nine more weeks to go before we can determine if she is cured, but we can see improvement already. She sleeps like a log at night and will occupy the whole bed if I allow it. I do have to move her some nights and have not had a single scratch.

It breaks my heart to say this, but Pookie would do well in a home with no other cats and one person, preferably an older woman who does not work. She is very verbal, swears in six dialects, and is slow to adapt to change. Once she adjusts she is very loving and physically affectionate. Mama's girl will always have a place here, but she deserves so much more."

## MATCHING CHARITABLE GIFTS

Did you know that many employers will match charitable gifts dollar for dollar made by their current and retired employees? Your employer may be one of them. Please consider checking with your employer and you may be able to "double the dollars" of your next contribution to Cat Angel Network. If you would like more information on this subject, please call us or email us. Thanks for your consideration.

MAIL FROM ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Note: One of our rewards for the work we do is hearing from you, the adoptive parents of our little angels. Please send us updates and pictures.

Dear Cat Angel Friends:

Dan and I want to thank you and everyone at CAN for bringing our Baby Penny (formerly Baby Buddy) to us. She's a little sweetheart and really is our "baby". She loves lounging on our couch under a blanket and watching our fish. We've finally cured her of her digestive problem and now she is perfectly healthy and happy!

Love, Dan, Angela and Baby Penny
Dear Charlotte:

We just wanted to write to let you know how Boomer and Maisy are doing. We adopted them last September - brother and sister. We came with a plan to adopt only one kitten but upon your advice, adopted two - one to keep the other company.

Sincerely, Margie Madilia

To all my friends at Cat Angel Network:

I'm sending some pictures of me at my new home. I'm SO busy and SO bad. I get into everything and still won't let my person cut my nails - I just wiggle too much.

The sun room has a great view of birds and chipmunks. I have lots of toys and a big brother whom I'm always bothering.

Love to All, Tipper Gore

(Ed.Note: "Tipper" was one of the 17 feral cats we trapped at Whitehorse Retirement Community in Malvern. This success story just proves once again what an open and loving heart can do for one of God's little creatures.)

VOLUNTEER'S VENUE

Submitted by Michele Christman

My relationship with Cat Angel Network started about 4 1/2 years ago. I called and talked to Elaine and she told me that Cat Angel Network was a no-kill shelter. My husband and I went to the shelter to adopt a cat. We were very impressed with how clean the shelter was and how healthy the cats were.

Well, enough about my cats, although I could write about them all day. After we adopted our first three, I started volunteering at the shelter. I am so glad that I did because-I love it! I volunteer one night a week feeding, changing water dishes, scooping litter and visiting the cats.

Some of the cats have been there as long as I have. King Louie and Lindy Lou were at the shelter the first time that I visited there and I always like to think of them as our mascots. I just love knowing that I am making such a difference in the lives of animals and I get a thrill every time I hear that another of our Cat Angels is going to a good home.

CAN'S POLICY ON SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Submitted by Elaine Richert, Adoption Coordinator

The reason we feel it is so vitally important to spay and neuter every cat turned in to us is that we daily see the suffering that results from the huge overpopulation of cats and dogs. Two or three cats will rapidly multiply to an overwhelming number within 2-3 years (female cats over 6 months old can have 3 litters a year, of 4-6 kittens each).

Most people that allow their pet cats and dogs to breed run out of friends and family members to adopt within the first year. They soon have 20 or more cats. We know, because dozens of people in this situation call us every day for help! They love animals but are overwhelmed by the number to care for and the complaints and threats of neighbors who tell them they're going to "take care of the problem," threatening to kill them or trap and remove them.

Our goal is to have ZERO killing of healthy and adoptable pets in all our shelters. That can only happen if all of us who truly care about the welfare of animals do everything we individually can to see that all cats and dogs we know are spayed and neutered BEFORE their first litter, which, by the way, prevents cats and dogs from acquiring certain cancers.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." -- St. Francis of Assisi

**KEEP THOSE REDNER'S & ACME TAPES COMING & ESCRIP (Genuardi's) is HERE!**

*Submitted by Linda Petro, Treasurer*

We are no longer collecting register tapes from GENUARDI's - Genuardi's has become a participating merchant in the ESCRIP program and no longer accepts tapes. Possibly you have seen advertisements in your local paper regarding this program.

We are now officially enrolled in the program and you can sign up at your local Genuardi Customer Service Desk. To find out all about the program and how it works, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on the link "Sign Up" to enroll your Genuardi's saving card or to sign up your other credit cards. It's easy to sign up - just follow the steps and type "Cat Angel Network" where they ask you what group you wish to support. You will be able to find a list of participating merchants on that site also.

You can also sign up your other credit cards and every time you make a purchase at one of the participating merchants using your credit card we will receive a donation.

We are still collecting ACME and REDNER'S register receipts. And remember when shopping at Redner's, you must have and show the cashier your "Save-A-Tape" in order for your receipt to be eligible for redemption. We get 1% back in cash on these receipts. You can drop off those receipts at the Downingtown PetSmart adoption center table, at PETCO in Royersford or Douglassville Veterinary Clinic in Douglassville, or mail them directly to CAN at PO Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464. Encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to save the tapes for us, too.

## **ALLERGIES IN YOUR FAMILY? READ ON...**

Excerpt: MSNBC - NEW YORK, March 4 — It's a pet joke of many doctors: Tell the allergy sufferer to get rid of his cat, and he'll get rid of the allergist instead. But the truth is, there's not much merit to advice to give away the pet to begin with, one of the nation's leading allergists said Monday

CONTRARY TO what's long been advised, people who suffer from the itchy eyes, sniffing and sneezing of allergies need not get rid of their feline companions, said Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills, head of allergy and asthma at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "You usually hear that families [with allergies] should get rid of their cats," he said. "But we do not have enough evidence to say to families with allergies or asthma that they should do this."

## ***CAN you MAN (WOMAN, CAT) a C.A.N. CAN?***

Cat Angel Network is starting to place donation jars at willing businesses. If you know of a business with reasonable people-volume and would be willing to be responsible for a donation jar, **please let us know** -- here is what is involved:

- ❖ Ask the manager if he/she would be willing to allow you to place a donation jar for Cat Angel Network (a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization). If they say yes, contact me at [catangelpa@aol.com](mailto:catangelpa@aol.com) and we get you set up. (Your doctor, chiropractor, vet, hair stylist, favorite restaurant, etc. are all good targets). -- I believe that locations where people are handed change are going to be the most profitable for us, such as restaurants. Also, we may need to find jars of various sizes depending on the amount of space available for the jar.
- ❖ Once you get the jar, try to find a place for it where it will be easily seen by lots of customers.
- ❖ You will need to go to the location and empty the jar on a regular basis. Once the jar has been there for a few weeks, you will get an idea of how often you need to go there.
- ❖ You will then need to count the money and deliver it to Cat Angel Network every month or two.

**This could be a steady stream of income for us, with your help! Every little bit helps!**

### **ALLERGIES IN YOUR FAMILY? READ ON... (continued)**

In fact, putting the cat out may bring bad luck — or at least worse symptoms, according to Platts-Mills. New studies show that if a child tests positive for allergies to pollen and dust mites, but negative for cat dander, and parents give away the pet, "it's quite possible the child will become allergic to cats," he said. Another study shows that kids with a dog or a cat in the house get less asthma — with two pets being more protective than one. "One cat will do," Platts-Mills said, "but two — two dogs, two cats, a cat and a dog — is even better."

**WHY?** It's all part of the new "dirt is good for you" theory. Current dogma among allergists is that exposing a child early in life to dust, dander and other allergens will help the body to build up immunity against them — just like a vaccination. Conversely, clean living has an adverse effect: Studies show if that if children escape multiple infections or are not exposed to allergens as infants, their immune systems later overreact to dander or other things that cause allergies. That's why children who grow up on farms are less likely to develop allergies or asthma than those who reside in hermetically sealed apartments, Platts-Mills explained. Or why in Sweden, 80 percent of kids who are allergic to cats have never had a cat.

**THE THANKSGIVING EFFECT** - Other new research shows that the protection afforded by having a cat is not permanent, he said. "You raise a kid with a cat who has allergies, but not to the cat; he goes off to college, spends a few months away and comes back to visit," Platts-Mills said. "But now he is allergic to that cat — he has lost that protection." Dr. John Costa, an allergist at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, said he is also aware of the so-called "Thanksgiving effect."

"Perhaps a lucrative business would be cat hair-filled pillows for college students," he joked. In truth, though, it is not cat hair that provokes the runny nose, watery eyes and other symptoms of an allergic reaction, but rather their dander, or dead skin flakes, and a protein in the saliva, he said. The experts spoke Monday at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

Also at the meeting, British researchers reported that contrary to common belief, modern, high-efficiency vacuum cleaners do not rid carpeting of cat dander — in fact, the newer models increase allergen levels just as much as the leaky machines of years past. Don't let the more expensive models lull you into a false sense of security, said Dr. Robin Gore of the North West Lung Centre in Manchester, England. Even though they do not leak like old vacuum cleaners, the new high-efficiency particulate air, or HEPA, machines stir things up, raising levels of dander-laden dust in a room, Gore said. The sweeping action may even blow settled dander off the walls and into your nose, he said.

### **NOTICE**

To ensure that you will be sent a copy of our newsletter please send a self addressed, stamped envelope with your request to: Cat Angel Network, Inc. P.O. Box 3071. Stowe. PA 19464

**REMEMBER- ALWAYS BE KIND TO ANIMALS. IT WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE BEYOND BELIEF**