

The Holiday Mewsletter

December 2007

November 21, 2007

Dear Friends of Cats Haven —

Here it is, the day after Thanksgiving, 2007. Time has really flown by, and all of a sudden we're looking towards the Holiday season, followed closely by a whole new year. It's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since Wobbles, our little cerebellum kitten, as well as his brothers Phil and Phinn came to live with us. I remember the day they arrived from a shelter in Lake County, and it seems like it's been only a few weeks ago. Looking back over 2007, this year has been marked with ups and downs. In the "ups" category, we managed to save over 200 cats, among them several Ocicat mothers and kittens who unceremoniously landed at Indianapolis Animal Care and Control. We were also fortunate enough to take in Cameron with his head bobble, Skittles and her polydactyl kids, handsome Maurice, silly Hemingway, stately Gizmo, and many, many others. We've done well over 200 spays and neuters, adopted out nearly 100 cats to loving homes, and welcomed several new, much-appreciated volunteers. We also managed to have the roof replaced on the shelter this summer, which in 100-degree temperatures was no small feat for human or cat alike. We all managed to get through many special events this year, and handed out countless brochures about Cats Haven as well as IndyFeral and low-cost spay/neuter options. KJ and Smiley at WZPL graciously hosted us several times on their morning show, and through their efforts, we managed to place a couple of kitties. Thank you so much, KJ and Smiley. We revamped The Mewsletter, and have also managed to get our website in good shape. This will be an on-going project, but it looks great so far!

In the "down" category, however, we have lost several kittens in our care. We are seeing more heart-related problems in kittens, but have yet to figure out why so many have come to us with life-ending heart murmurs. Ultrasounds are costly but necessary to see exactly what we're looking at with these babies. We also lost The Queen, our old, grumpy friend who lived in the front room—the Queen's Room, as we still call it—with her ever-faithful friend, Merlin. The Queen was nearing 20 years of age, and while we knew her days were growing short, it wasn't easy to say good-bye. We also lost other long-time residents, such as Molly and Candace. Their presence is greatly missed. We also lost a great friend of the shelter when Dr. Janet Weber crossed a couple of months ago. We have seen our adoptions decline, as well as donations, while at the same time we are seeing more and more cats in need. And although we thoroughly love and appreciate our current crew of volunteers, the house still needs lots of work and very few have the time or abilities necessary to make much-needed repairs. We still don't have a garage, our fence is on hold, and a real kitchen seems like a very far-away dream. Our main van was vandalized while parked in our side yard this summer, and the steering column broken to the tune of over \$600. And while insurance money covered most of the roof replacement, the shelter still had to come up with a fair amount to get this work completed.

So it's been a year of ups and downs, just like any other year. And still, we muddle on, doing what we do best . . . helping cats in need. I want to thank each and every one of you for all you have done this year to help support Cats Haven, our efforts, and all the kitties in our care. Without folks like you, we wouldn't be able to continue our work. Some of you have contributed time and opened your homes to foster kitties; others have contributed money and supplies; and still others have been there for us with a kind word and a much needed shoulder to lean on during hard or sad times. Truly, all of your help and support, no matter how small you think your contribution was, has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Personally, I feel we have the very best group of volunteers and supporters in the Indianapolis animal welfare community.

2008 brings more challenges as well as opportunities for us . . . and I think we're up to the tasks that lay ahead of us. We need to get more kitties placed into forever homes; we need to raise more money for medical care for the cats as well as the repairs needed at the house. We need to expand our volunteer base. But for now, at the end of 2007 with the Holiday season and New Year approaching faster than Raspberry greeting a visitor to the shelter, I look back over this past year with the knowledge that we did the very best we could, we saved lives, and we made it though another 365 days thanks to all of you.

Have a wonderful and bright Holiday season, and may the New Year bring you all the happiness and love that you deserve. Happy Holidays from all the kitties at Cats Haven, and from . . .

Barbara Wills, caretaker & founder of Cats Haven



All I Want For Christmas . . .

Recently, Raspberry polled some of the shelter residents on what they'd like for Christmas. Here are their responses.

Maurice—A home of my very own!

Puma—A home with no dogs!

Miranda—More Pounce treats!

Skittles—For all kitties to be spayed and neutered!

Spaz—More sci-fi movies! And a kitchen of our own!

Dan Waxman—Canned food every day for the rest of my life!

Joey—More walks on my harness and leash!

Frankie—Belly rubs!

Sinclair—Peace and quiet!

Milky Way—More outings!

MacArthur—Catnip, catnip, and more catnip!

The Weber Kids—More television time!

Butterfly—A Nintendo!

Chomper—Plenty of food for my brother, sister, and me!

Pequita—For someone to leave the back room door open more often!

Stuart Longtail—For you guys to realize that I don't want to ever go to adoptions ever again!

Snowflake—A home with little kids . . . I like two-year-olds!

Wiggles—A home with a little boy of my own to play with!

Kenya—Someone who will let me curl up with them in bed!

CJ—Church's chicken 24/7!

Shadow—A home with a single woman (I am afraid of men).

The Oci Kittens—To get well enough so we can find our homes!

Taffy—Someone who is patient and will give me time to adjust.

Mick—Lots of toys to play with!

Casper—Someone who will adopt me and be understanding of my quirks.

And me? Raspberry? I just want everyone to have a safe and happy Holiday, and the very bestest New

Cats Haven, Ltd

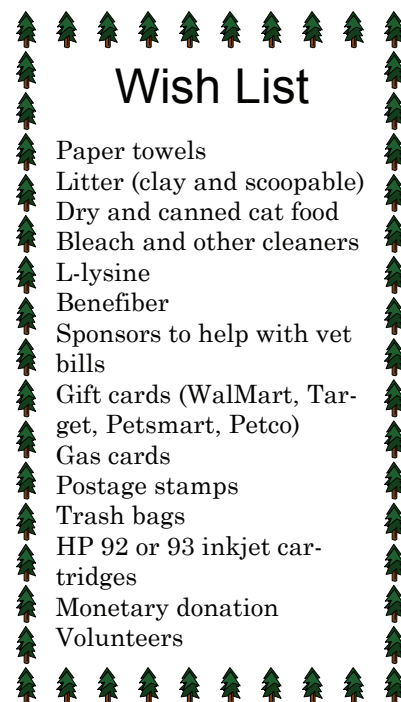
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Cats Haven.org



Wish List

Paper towels
Litter (clay and scoopable)
Dry and canned cat food
Bleach and other cleaners
L-lysine
Benefiber
Sponsors to help with vet bills
Gift cards (WalMart, Target, Petsmart, Petco)
Gas cards
Postage stamps
Trash bags
HP 92 or 93 inkjet cartridges
Monetary donation
Volunteers

Holiday Bazaar!!!

Join us as we celebrate the holidays with our annual Holiday Bazaar December 1, 8, and 9 from noon until 4. Visit with the kitties and volunteers, have a snack, and do a little shopping! We'll have lots of nice gift items for sale, and 100% of each sale goes directly to the shelter! For more information about this event, check out our website at www.catshaven.org, or call the shelter at 317-925-7001.