



The Mewsletter

September October November 2008

Come to the Fall Frolic!!

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I really don't think that my foster mom will mind if I use her toothbrush. A cat's gotta have clean teeth, too!

Summer has been lovely this year, despite the damaging and devastating rains and winds of late Spring. Temperatures have been moderate and tolerable, which has been great for Indianapolis residents but not so much for unspayed and unneutered cats. This summer, Cats Haven has seen a tremendous increase in the number of kittens and first-time momcats when compared to recent years. So to help raise money to get these little ones spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ready for fur-ever homes of their very own, Cats Haven is hosting a Fall Frolic!!

On October 11th from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the side yard at Chateau Les Chat at 2603 North College will be transformed from a vacant lot to Party Central!! The following local artists have already reserved space at this gala:

- **Cheri Storms**-woven Moments Throws, Perfect Petzzz, MagiColor kids shirts
- **Mike Altman**-painter, caricature drawer
- **Keith Bratton**-whimsical art from mixed media (some cat themed pieces)
- **Stephan Dean**-painter (mainly cat themed pieces)
- **Jamie Dickerson**-jewelry
- **Willow Branch Bakery**-hand painted/decorated cookies

- **Allison Winter**-pet bling
- **Jenny Razzak**-henna tattooist
- **Joe Alexander**-wooden and wrought iron home decor, zen gardens
- **April A. Tchiguka**-limited edition photography, one of a kind painted photos, cat toys and treats
- **Gypsy Cat Jewelry**—hand-made beaded jewelry creations

If you attended our Spring Fling, just imagine that event on steroids!! We also plan to have all kinds of entertainment and attractions, from a tarot card reader to belly dance demonstrations. Am-Nee-Sha the clown will be there to keep the kids happy and do a little face painting! There will be a Flea Market tent filled with interesting odds and ends for sale. And for only \$4, you can get a fresh-grilled burger (beef or veggie) or hot dog, a bag of chips, and a drink! We'll also have the most wonderful Caramel Apple Bites for sale. And we're adding more vendors everyday, so be sure to check the website at www.catshaven.org for up-to-the-minute additions!

Admission to our Fall Frolic is free, but donations of litter, canned and dry food, paper towels, and cleaning supplies are always welcome. For more information about the Fall Frolic, contact the shelter at 317-925-7001. Bring the family, enjoy a lovely Fall day, and help Cats Haven at the same time!

It's Buck-Toberfest Time Again!!

Hi, friends. Raspberry here, shelter manager at Cats Haven. We had such a great response last year to our Buck-Toberfest fund raiser that we're doing it again! All through the month of October, I'm asking all of my friends to send one dollar (a buck . . . get it? Buck-Tober? Hahaha. I'm so clever!) to the shelter, and then ask just ten of your friends to do the same thing. And

then those ten friends could ask ten more, and so on, and so on . . . and we could raise a bazillion dollars this way! You can make your Buck-Toberfest donation on our website through PayPal, or if you see us at an adoption event, donate a dollar then. Or you could just send a dollar to us in the mail. Happy Buck-Tober, everyone!

Working Beyond the Shelter Walls

The official mission statement of Cats Haven is “to is to provide a non-institutional shelter (no cages) for cats and kittens. Cats Haven was founded for special need cats or kittens with birth defects, visual impairments, neurological problems, or medical issues or injuries that require veterinary care. Cats Haven strives to educate the public about available resources and proper care of companion animals.” And 99 percent of the time, that’s what Cats Haven does. But there’s that 1 percent that lets the volunteers at Cats Haven work beyond the shelter walls . . . and even beyond working with cats!

“Well, we had Cedric the pot-bellied pig that Dave and Zoe Molloy found on the interstate,” muses Cats Haven founder Barb Wills. “And then there was that iguana I found on the sidewalk. Believe it or not, we’ve even had homeless lab rats. They were so cool.”

Over the 20 years that Cats Haven has been around, more than cats have felt the gentle helping hands of its

volunteers. Recently, a couple of local homeless dogs have found their way to the comfort and safety of Sue Hildebrandt’s home. “I was coming home one afternoon and happened to look on the side of I-65,” Sue explains. “There in the grass was this dog. Initially I thought it was dead, but then I saw it move. So I stopped the van and tried to help.” As it turned out, the dog was very old and very sick. But Sue managed to get him into her van at which point she took him to see a vet. “We tested him for heartworm and got a cursory exam for him. The vet felt that for the moment, food and water would do more than anything.” The old shepherd mix went back home with Sue. Barb named him Sailor, and despite a skin condition, near deafness and blindness, Sailor was a great houseguest. “He completely ignored the cats,” says Sue. His family was never found, never came forward for him, but Sailor had a home in the Hildebrandt family for several months until his old body gave out. Early this summer, Sailor died

with Sue by his side, but he had been cared for and loved from the moment he was gathered into her van.

At least once a week, Sue Hildebrandt and her partner, Mil, drive to Seymour Indiana to the WalMart distribution center. Rain or snow, ice, or sun, they make this trip to pick up broken bags of dog and cat food and cat litter that WalMart donates. “We’ve started a small food pantry,” says Barb. “When other shelters or rescue groups need food, we try to help. We also help with litter and food for Indianapolis Animal Care and Control because dog and cat food and litter are not part of their budget. If we’ve got it, whoever needs supplies are welcome to come and take what they need.”

So while Cats Haven helps hundreds of cats each year, the shelter and its volunteers quietly go about helping animals and other groups in any way they can. The shelter’s mission statement is just the beginning.



Cats Haven Weight-Loss Program!

How many times have you noticed that a friend has lost weight and thought, “I don’t know what they are doing, but sign me up for it!” Here’s your chance to join the latest craze in dieting and exercising. Yes, It’s the Cats Haven Weight-Loss Program (CHWLP)! One of our volunteers started on the CHWLP several months ago, and she has lost almost 100 pounds. That’s right . . . one hundred pounds!! And you too can lose those unsightly and unwanted pounds and inches just like our wonderful volunteer did by simply helping with the daily chores at Cats Haven.

The reason most diets don’t work is because you get bored with them, they’re too hard to follow, or they’re just not fun to do. Not with the CHWLP. There are plenty of fun things to do on the Program. Sweeping and mopping burns many calories, but did you know that scooping litter boxes burns three times as many calories as a five-mile run? (Maybe not, but it’s close!) How about lugging tubs of litter and laundry up the stairs and used litter out to the dumpster! There’s all that Ooooo-ing and Ahhhh-ing over the kittens, too, that promotes deep breathing and increased

smiling. And you can’t deny that picking up and cuddling some of our hefty kitties will build muscle mass and increase stamina. After a good workout, sit back and relax as our kitties give you a thorough massage. There are always healthy treats at the shelter, too, such as bananas, apples, and diet soda, so take a break and snack on healthful goodies!

If you like cats and want to lose pounds and inches, the CHWLP is for you. So come work your butt off at the main Cats Haven shelter house!

Interview with a shelter cat— Meet Chomper!!

Hi, guys! Wow, have I ever got a special interview for you this time! I'm talking with a very special Cats Haven foster named Chomper. He's got a really cool story to tell.

Raspberry: Hi, Chomper. I'm so glad you agreed to do this interview. I think it's important that our readers know your story.

Chomper: Hiya, Raspberry. What would you and your readers like to know?

Raspberry: Well, Chomper, let's start at the beginning.

Chomper: Hehehe, well, some of it is a little foggy. I was pretty young when I came here, but I started my life as a feral kitten. My mom, brother Jaws, and sister Dru lived in the alley across the street from Cats Haven.

Raspberry: Wow!! You lived, like, outside?

Chomper: We lived in a garage that had a hole on the back of it so we could come and go as we pleased. It was cold and dirty, but mom tried to make it homey for us with mouse casserole dinners and such.

Raspberry: And I understand that you didn't like humans? Even when you were just a few weeks old?

Chomper: Oh, no. Not at all. Being feral means that we were wild cats. We avoided humans at all cost.

Raspberry: So how did you end up in the shelter? I'm sure you didn't just walk across the street and ring the doorbell . . . did you?

Chomper: No. One evening when Jaws, Dru, and I were out hunting for dinner, we were crossing the street and were almost run over by a Cats Haven volunteer. She stopped in the middle of the street and tried to get

us to come to her. We ran as fast as we could because we'd been taught the humans would hurt us. A few minutes later, the lady came back with some dry food and put it out in our alley. I heard her tell us that we needed to stay out of the street, and that she'd bring food for us everyday until we could be trapped. I didn't know what "trapped" meant, but I eventually found out.

Raspberry: What happened then, Chomper?

Chomper: A few days later, the same lady came into the alley with a friend. They started setting out these funny-looking metal boxes in the yard and putting food in them. Mom told me to stay away from the boxes, but I just had to go and check one of them out. That's when the first lady grabbed me.

Raspberry: And that's when you were caught?

Chomper: (Laughing) Oh, no. Not even close! She grabbed me by the back of my neck like my mom did, but I didn't like her much. So I flipped around, grabbed onto her arm with my claws, and sunk my teeth into her thumb. I bit right through her nail! It was a lot of fun! Her friend then yelled, "Drop the kitten! The mom is on the way!" I looked up and my mom was streaking across the yard to save me. The lady kept trying to put me on the ground, but I wasn't going to let her go so easily. Just before mom was ready to spring, I let go and the lady dropped me. I got away.

Raspberry: Gee whiz! What a story! So how did you end up getting here?

Chomper: We were all really hungry, and eventually we all went to check out those metal boxes with the food after the two ladies left. Turns out those boxes were humane traps, and they caught us all. A little while later, the second lady came back for us and we were brought to the shelter. Dru, Jaws, and I were really sick with very bad colds. So as

much as we hated it and as much as we hissed, Barb kept giving us medicine. And the three of us found out that humans really aren't so bad. It felt good to be held and petted, and have someone say nice things to us. Of course, bribing us with food didn't hurt.

Raspberry: So then what?

Chomper: Well, mom got spayed and was returned to the alley. She's still feral. And eventually the three of us kittens got well, were spayed and neutered, and we're all ready to find nice humans of our own. We're 100 percent domesticated now.

Raspberry: Chomper, how long DID it take before you started to like humans?

Chomper: The story goes like this. Remember the lady's thumbnail that I bit through? As it grew out, I grew less feral and more trusting of people. So however long it takes for a thumbnail to grow out is how long it takes to domesticate a feral kitten!

Raspberry: That's an amazing story, Chomper! Thank you for sharing with us. If any of my readers out there are interested in sharing their home with Chomper, just call the shelter. That's all this time from Raspberry, your reporter on the Cats Haven scene!



Chomper, keeping on eye on things.

Donors—in memoriam, honor, etc.

Donations made in honor & remembrance of people who have crossed :

Paula Winkler — her Aunt Becky Spears who fought a valiant battle against breast cancer.

Sue Goodson, Pat Caskey, The Reitzng Family, Donnie & Renee Smith — tribute to Brenda

Pellegrin; the daughter of Roy & Barbara Pellegrin who miss her everyday.

Donations made in memory of beloved pets who have crossed :

Nancy & Eric Gaylord — Kang who was a regal cat, I am honored to have known him. They miss him greatly.

Carol & Kevin Machinske — Fredo who is greatly missed by his dad, Jim Rule.

Diane Rice & family — Hercules, he once was a Cats Haven kitty. Much loved

and missed by Diane, her daughter and all his furry family. He had such a great way about him.

Lorrie & Steve Crandell — Their beloved Kali. She was the Queen cat in their home.

Mrs. D. Holton — Sadie, who was the best cat ever

Deborah Joachim — Clyde & Baby. Baby was her 1st Siamese

Ms. C. Bartlett — Sue Staton's beloved kitty companion Buff

Barbara Wills — Amy & Derek Van Ostrand's beloved Melanie & Wyatt, greatly missed by all your family

Vicky Colonna — Scrappy came into her life as a very ill & older kitty that had been tossed out on the

highway, she made a deep impact on Vicky's heart in the few years she graced Vicky's life.

Donations to honor beloved people & pets :

Hackney—Breedlove home: Evanhaus upon the Silver who feels much better after her dental.

Deborah Joachim — her 3 Siamese — Mochi, Miso & Nori, they keep her home full of love



Cats Haven kitties who have crossed:

Luck, he is now with his previous caretaker : Dr. J. Weber, whom he adored. Sinclair, a funny quirky kitty, helped me make the morning coffee at the shelter house every day. While your previous owners thought you old & worthless and left you at Animal Care & control. I thought of you as priceless. Willa. You are very missed. Reta Mae Burch who kept the porch safe for us. Lucinda & Crane. Orange Julius, the girl kittens in the kitchen really miss snuggling with. Rio, Goose, Bright Eyes and tiny kittens that are crossing as we find them. Some were here so such a short time, yet made such an impact.

Other furry friends who have crossed:

Rudy Guiliani, the mayor of Sue Hobbs' home, and Chloe the rare and exotic waddling Lotta Lhasa who brought so many smiles to everyone she met. Sailor. You knew kindness in your last days. Pirate, who we never met but loved nonetheless and was a casualty of war. Rest in peace.

Please remember the furry ones who are out in the world with no one to notice their crossing.

Letter from Barb . . .

Some info on me for new readers of our newsletter; I am Barbara Wills, the caretaker/founder of Cats Haven. One might say that this has become my life's passion. Enough about me—there are more important things to share with our readers.

I am sure that most if not all of our readers have heard of the search for a new leader of the Indianapolis Animal Care & Control. I truly hope that the position will be filled by someone who has animal care & welfare knowledge.

There are many things that need to be done for animal welfare in Indianapolis.

A few suggestions are: aggressive spaying & neutering of cats & dog. A city-supported low cost spay neuter clinic (or clinics) that is located in an inner city area or a mobile unit that can be taken to the areas where the statistics show the most animals are picked up by the IACC. Have all animals that are altered at these clinics micro chipped to make it easier to get lost animals back to their owners. Make the public more aware of the resources that are available to help them. There are many other things that need done, but I believe these items are very important .

For more information on Indianapolis animal welfare please check out Spay Neuter Services of Indiana website for the released "Community Assessment—Indianapolis Animal Welfare." It has valuable information on the scope of the problem, what is working, what is the void and what the public can do to help. Here is the website: www.spayneuterservices.org

If you have been following Raspberry's blog you're aware that Cats Haven is overflowing with kittens. Since Cats Haven pulls cats & kittens from Indianapolis Animal Care & Control, quite a few mommas with little babies are here. The kittens have graduated to meat baby food & Science Diet A/D. The kittens go thru 5-7 jars of meat baby food (at 90-97 cents a jar) and 3-4 cans of the A/D (almost \$1.75 a can) daily. Plus, they & their momma's eat approx 14lbs of Royal Canin Baby Cat weekly.

Thank you to Dzana for the your help around the shelter house and in caring & feeding the kittens their breakfast. You have definitely made life easier for me.

A Huge Thank You to all the wonderful Cats Haven volunteers.

The Cats Haven's "Race for the Cure" at a wonderful time at this year's walk/race. While the weather wasn't the best, a good time was had by all. We all enjoyed a brunch at the shelter house afterwards. I think a few of them are already discussing next year's race.

Our Spring Fling was a great success. Raspberry was there to visit, we had food, a belly dancer giving short belly dancing lessons, face painting, vendors to buy goodies from and just fun. Looking forward to our Fall Frolic in October. We will have 2 Cats Haven Flea Market tents, lots of vendors lined up with wonderful gift ideas and the belly dancer has said she will be there.

Thank you to Mrs. L. Goodman for her donation to treat the 2 Sues', Dzana and myself to lunch at our favorite Chinese restaurant. We waited until they were finished remodeling our favorite restaurant. It was nice to just relax a bit, and have a meal without cats trying to help us eat. Again, thank you for the wonderful treat.

Thank you's go out to everyone who helps support the shelter, without your financial and other support, Cats Haven would not be able to help as many kitties as we do.

Barbara Wills, Caretaker/founder

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Look deep into my eyes. You are getting sleepy. You are under my control. You will give me catnip . . .

What's Goin' On? - Cats Haven Events!

Barb and the cats continue to keep us busy with a slew of fundraising and adoption events! Check the Cats Haven website for up-to-the-minute information about where we'll be!

September 20, Paws in the Park. Broad Ripple Park, 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Join Cats Haven and other rescue groups and shelters for a day of late-summer sun and fun! Lots of animals, food, an auction, items for sale, and even a turtle race will liven up the day.

September 27, Pagan Fest. Broad Ripple Park, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Have you ever met a real witch, or ever wondered what modern-day pagans are all about? Here's your chance to rub elbows with some real wiccans! Cats Haven will be there with all kinds of catnip toys and Gypsy Cat jewelry for sale. All proceeds from our sales go to help the kitties at the shelter.

October 11, Fall Frolic. 2603 N. College Avenue, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Nearly a dozen local artists have jumped at the chance to be at our Fall Frolic fund raiser, and this will be our own mini Penrod!!! We'll have food and beverages for sale, a huge flea market, a face-painting clown, a fortune teller, a belly dancer, and more. Admission is free, and a percent of each sale goes to help the shelter. If you loved the Spring Fling, you'll really love our Fall Frolic!!!

October 25 and 26, Circle City Cat Club

Show. Indiana State Fairground, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Cats Haven will again be front and center at the Circle City Cat Club cat show with catnip mice, Gypsy Cat jewelry, and a few adoptable kitties! This show features all kinds of cats, from registered breeds to gorgeous housecats, all vying for those big blue ribbons. There are always lots of vendors, and this is a great place to do a little Holiday shopping for the cat lovers in your family. Small admission fee.

November 5 through 9, Christmas Gift and

Hobby Show. Indiana State Fairgrounds, times vary. It's hard to believe that it's nearly *that* time of year again, but what a better way to get in the Holiday spirit than to visit the Christmas Gift and Hobby Show! This annual event features all kinds of gift items, decorations . . . and, of course, Cats Haven adoptable kitties! We'll also have our world-famous catnip toys and plenty of Gypsy Cat jewelry to help make your Holidays merry and bright! All sales benefit the kitties!

Wish List

Clay litter	Paper plates (small/large)
Scoopable litter	Q-Tips
Dry food, Canned food	Chain-link fencing
Meat babyfood	Gift cards from Target,
Trash bags	Lowes, Office Depot,
Clorox Clean-up	WalMart, and so on
Laundry detergent	Gas cards
Paper towels	

Volunteer Spotlight—Sue Hobbs (the Other Sue)

"It all started with a little three-legged cat named Bodecia," says volunteer Sue Hobbs. "I had just lost my old three-legged Cassidy cat. One day, I was looking at the Cats Haven website and saw Bo. So I called to ask about her, and the rest is history!" That phone call about Bo happened over six years ago, and Sue has been a volunteer ever since. She went by the shelter to meet Barb and Bo, "and, well, I kinda never left!"

The Other Sue got her nickname when Barb realized that she suddenly had two Sue's as constant volunteers. "Since Sue Hildebrandt started volunteering a few months before I did, she became known as Sue, and I'm the Other Sue," explains Hobbs. "I'm also known as Rachel. One of the shelter's neighbors continually mistook me for someone she knew named Rachel, and rather than trying to correct her, I ended up answering to Rachel, too. I've been called worse, believe me!"

The Other Sue has a houseful of dogs and cats. "All of the dogs are mine, but a few of the cats are fosters. I've had up to 23 cats in the house at one time," Hobbs chuckles, "I always wanted a big family, but I found that 23 is just too many for me to handle." Sue says that since she works at home, she can give all the animals plenty of love and attention. "I'm always around during the day, and some of the cats even try to help me work by sleeping on my keyboard!"

Sue comes from a long line of animal lovers. "My dad had dogs when I was growing up, and I dragged my first cat home when I was about six. The cat was nearly 10 when I found him, and he was with our family for many more years," Sue says. "I can't imagine life without my critters."