

Cats Haven, Ltd.
P.O. Box 30206
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Happy Holidays, Cats Haven Family!

It's hard to imagine that it's once again the holiday season and 2011 is drawing to a close. This has been a busy year for Cats Haven; and we've been especially busy over the last few months. Between helping injured kitties like BC (more on him later in this letter) and working on exciting shelter renovation projects, the days have simply flown by. But no matter how busy and hectic our lives become, we never lose sight of the fact that it's people like you who enable us to help these animals. Thanks to your continued support, we have just completed another year of helping cats in need.

I want to tell you about one of the kitties who we were able to help just recently. His name was B.C. (Big Cat), and he was a big black cat. It may not have looked like his lucky day when he was picked up as a stray by Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC) just before Halloween of this year, but it was. B.C. came in to IACC with a badly wounded right front leg. Know that IACC officers pick up wounded cats almost daily, but B.C. was special. Despite of all his pain, he stayed very sweet and calm while being handled and eventually examined.

Cats Haven was asked to take the cat because he was going to need his leg removed. I hesitated before I said we would take him because of what I knew his vet bill was going to run. For us, this is a common surgery, so I had a pretty good idea of what the costs would be. But I agreed to take him and then called Dr. Rick Lyons ("Dr. Rick," as we call him) at Zionsville Country Vet to let them know that I would be there Monday morning with the cat.

On the morning of Halloween, B.C. and I made the trip up to see Dr. Rick. He made quite the impression on the staff due to his sweet nature and size! This was one big kitty! But his surgery went well, and B.C. came to the shelter to recover before looking for his fur-ever home.



Fast forward to December 4 and our annual Open House. As you can see in this picture, B.C. was part of the official "Welcoming Committee," greeting shelter guests as they came in to help celebrate the season with us. And then came December 6 when B.C. was chosen to attend a meet and greet. The last thing we expected that evening was for someone to see him and fall in love, but that's exactly what happened. A family met this gentle giant and immediately added him to their family. His new name is Gitzo and he is well loved.

Had it not been for your continued support of Cats Haven and the work we do, B.C.'s story could have had a different ending. In fact, every cat who we have helped over the years could have experienced a different outcome without your help.

There are many B.C.s in shelters and animal controls around the state, and I realize that Cats Haven cannot help them all. But to the ones we can help, it makes all the difference in the world to that cat or kitten. It can also make a world of difference to the family who might eventually adopt a new feline friend . . . someone who will grow up with their children, or bring comfort and companionship to a senior citizen. We even have former Cats Haven alums who are now "working cats" and serve as mousers on farms and in offices. That is why your support is so important. And not just for the ones who may be waiting, but for the ones who are already a part of the large Cats Haven family. For some of them, Cats Haven is their final home. They're with us because of medical problems, or age-related issues.

While here at Cats Haven, every cat learns that food and water is always available; that people are not mean or cause pain; and that warm, soft beds are wonderful. And if/when they are ready, we try to find a suitable home of their own. In the meanwhile, Cats Haven is their home, and each volunteer is a member of their family.

Your support is crucial to us continuing our mission to help the cats and kittens who are in our care now as well as the ones who will come our way in the future. There are so many ways that you can help us. You can

- volunteer and come to the shelter to work hands-on with these incredible animals
- foster a kitty until a home can be found
- adopt a cat from Cats Haven (which, of course, includes spay or neuter, current vaccinations, an FIV/FLV test, and microchip)

Or you can make a monetary donation to us. Today, please consider a tax-deductible gift to the kitties of Cats Haven. Every donation is appreciated, and no gift is too small because those \$5, \$10, and \$20 donations add up so that we can help cats like B.C.

As we end 2011 and prepare to start 2012, I want to say thank you for your belief in Cats Haven. We couldn't continue on without you. Have a wonderful Holiday Season, and may 2012 be the best year ever for us all!

Barbara Wills

Caretaker and Founder , Cats Haven, Ltd.