



Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE

February, 2005

Scratching Post



A periodic newsletter of the Cat Tales Animal Rescue

Caring

I received the picture at the bottom of the column in an e-mail bouncing around the Internet. I'm sure it is from an agency photographer and I am sorry that I don't have his or her name. The soldier pets the cat and expresses caring for the cat, in a simple way. I'm sure the cat responded with a purr, an arched back and toes digging into the ground below. Not all animals are as fortunate in a war zone. I like to think all of the soldiers are like this when the news tells us of some of the less than compassionate behavior of the military. I'm sure they are.

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That is the essence of inhumanity."

George Bernard Shaw



"Caring" is a word often used disingenuously, by politicians promoting a policy that will benefit few, or organizations more interested in developing fund-raising parties to support their social lives than actually helping their dependents. People who truly care, do so out of compassion to those unable to care for themselves. They do it without consideration of what they will get in return.

I can say there are many caring people in Cat Tales, Inc. I see them at the adoption centers, cleaning cages, giving the cats some at-

tention and sometimes giving them medication; I see them at Christmas, playing Santa or working as a photo elf; I see them in the names of the foster homes that care for the cats while they wait for their chance to go into the adoption centers; and I see them in the names of people who are rescuing cats from empty lots, decaying buildings or from the torments of nasty people, bringing them to us and making a donation for the health care and feeding of a cat they have know for a few hours.

They are the essence of humanity.

While on vacation, I got to see someone else who really cares about cats. Her name is Catherine and she runs "Hale Meow-Meow" (pronounced hallee me-ow me-ow, which is Hawaiian for "house of many meows"). Her story starts on page 4.

A big "thank you" to our special supporters:

- **Danielle Clark** for her donation of time and money. Danielle began volunteering with us to complete her graduation project for high school. She then created flyers and distributed them in her neighborhood, raising \$100 that she donated to Cat Tales. We thank her and our kitties thank her.
- **Hatfield Meats, Dominic Graziano Flowers and Gifts, Jennifer Schermerhorn of Avon and Pat Plover of Mary Kay Cosmetics** for their generous donations to the holiday raffle baskets.
- Our second advertiser, **Hatboro Federal Savings.**
- **Barnes & Noble** for letting us be part of the Christmas gift wrap and collecting donations for Cat Tales.

Santa Claws Came to Town

They sported caps, antlers, scarves and sweaters and some were only in their fur when Santa Claws came to town in December. Cat Tales had pet pictures with Santa at two of our adoption centers. We took about a thousand pictures of cats, dogs and other special pets in our four days of shooting at both locations.

Dogs were in the majority of the pictures including a 250-pound English mastiff, and a 9-week old terrier pup. Generally, the larger dogs were more frightened of Santa than the little ones (except for the mastiff thankfully).

On the whole, the cats weren't as excited to see Santa. I think they resented the interruption in their napping schedule.

We also had a bearded dragon, a duck, a family of ferrets and a hamster. We had brothers and sisters, moms and dads in the pictures.

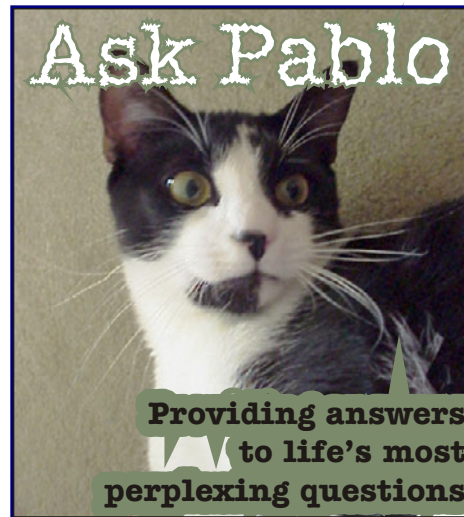
We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the Santa Claws events.



Above, two of our foster kittens, Tiny Tim and Rudolf, ask Santa for a new home for Christmas. They promise to leave the tree alone this year and not bother most of the ornaments.

Thank you for bringing your pets, buying raffle tickets and supporting Cat Tales, Inc. And many thanks to all of Santa's helpers who made this event possible.

Left, Santa needs the help of Dad and Grandpa to get a herd of Doxies to smile for the camera. Below left, the duck with Santa. Below, Santa gets a break while the next excited dog gets ready.



Dear Pablo,

My cat occasionally urinates outside of her litter box. What can I do?

Jean in Jamison

Jean,

There can be many reasons for this behavior.

Things to consider:

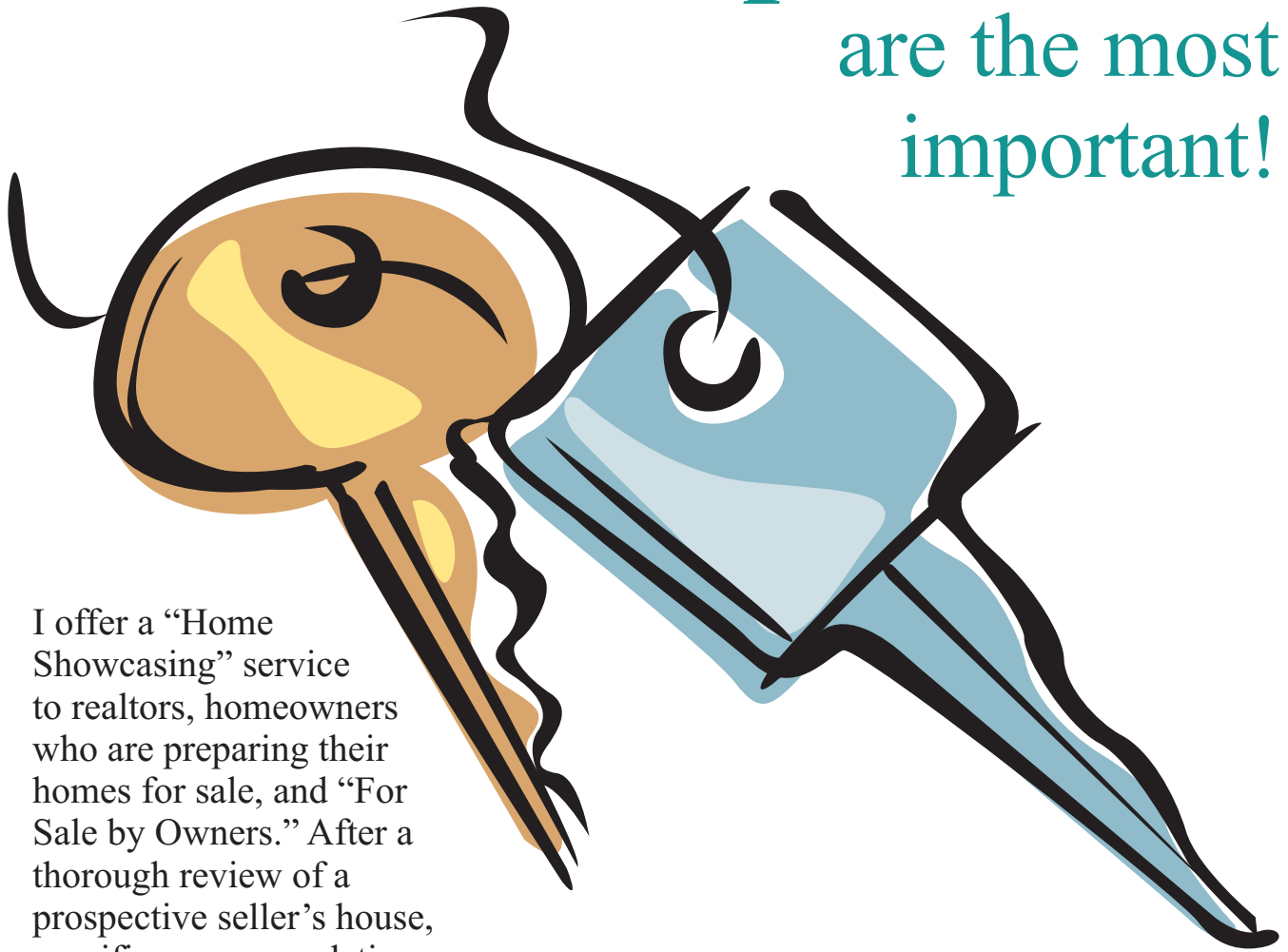
- Medical problems. First, have her veterinarian rule out medical problems. Bladder stones or an infection can cause pain and she may associate the litter box with this pain. My big sister also has seizures and loses control of her bladder. Then there are things such as arthritis that can make entering and exiting a high-sided litter box difficult.
- Box size. Most cats prefer a litter box that's at 1½ times their body length.
- Type of litter. Experiment until you find the litter she likes best, then keep it clean and odor free.
- Location. We all prefer privacy, so put the box in a quiet place. You should have one on each floor in big house. You should also have one for each cat. (My sister doesn't like it when we use HER box. Hey, we cover when we're done, but she still runs around, "MOOOOMMM! THE BOYS WERE IN MY BOX!")

If these tips don't work, contact your vet for help. Remember: yelling or punishing your cat for eliminating outside of the litter box doesn't work.

Selling Your Home?

First Impressions

are the most
important!



I offer a “Home Showcasing” service to realtors, homeowners who are preparing their homes for sale, and “For Sale by Owners.” After a thorough review of a prospective seller’s house, specific recommendations are presented to the homeowner in order to optimize their home’s overall appearance. I also offer assistance preparing for the Open House or other showings. With the noted improvements, the first impressions of your home can lead to a quicker sale and an optimized selling price.

First Impressions

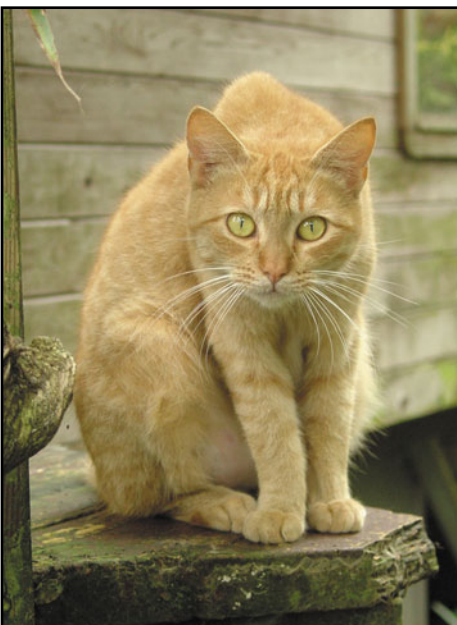
Marion Gilligan, Home Showcasing Consultant (215) 674-9359



Kitties in PARADISE

by Jeff Dodd

In the rainforest near the village of Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii there is a charming house nestled among ohia and hapu'u (fern) trees. It is a small house, a 12'x20' rectangle, raised about 3-4 feet above the ground with a porch stretching across the front. The interior consists of a kitchen, living room, bath, closet and bedroom in the loft above the kitchen. The windows are large and the rooms are painted in bright colors. It is a light, airy, relaxing house. It sits off an unpaved road, is surrounded by



trees and vegetation and cannot be seen from the road. It would be the perfect hideaway for your next vacation— except the house is occupied by more than 70 cats... and no people.

As I walk through the gate and see a cat approaching, my imagination takes over and I see a very dignified cat, on his hind legs, wearing glasses and a waistcoat. He speaks to us in a Sean Connery-tone, "This is **Hale Meow Meow**, or the 'Cat House.' Welcome to our home. Let me show you about.

"This is our little slice of paradise. We have about a half acre of land with a tall fence of metal and mesh around the perimeter. We are told it is an 'electric barrier.' It is to keep out dogs, vandals and other unwanted guests. There are occasions when one of my fellow residents insists on trying to make a life on the outside. If he returns, he then understands what a grand sanctuary we have here. However, some are not allowed to return to the security inside the fence. We are afraid they will show the youngsters how to get out."

He turns and leads us to the house and continues, "We have many happy stories. Over 160 of our most talented have moved on and are training new owners. Now that we are here, we all

have happy endings and it is hard to remember the stories of abuse, neglect, abandonment and other problems that has brought us here. Now, let me introduce you to our guardian angel, Catherine Killam, aka 'Cat.' Catherine is our champion. Many of us were saved by her as young kittens."

Catherine and her husband Kent founded Cat-Care, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, in 1998 shortly before they moved to the Big Island of Hawaii. The mission of Cat-Care is

to develop programs that can be modeled by compassionate communities willing to prevent animal cruelty, eliminate pet overpopulation, reunite lost pets with their owners and promote responsible pet ownership.

Hale Meow Meow was begun in August of 2001 as a foster home for kittens which would have been euthanized by the Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS). Over 15,000 animals are handled by HIHS per year, and due to limited resources, kittens weighing less than 2 pounds are considered unadoptable and are euthanized unless foster care can be found. Catherine





began by fostering close to a hundred kittens, many of which had to be hand fed.

Our host leads us into the house, pausing to rub his neck against the door frame and grab a quick bite at the food bowl as we follow him in. He jumps up onto the couch near the window and continues his story. "Over the years the role of **Hale Meow Meow** has evolved. It has developed into a sanctuary for lost, surrendered, and feral cats. Many of us were not born on the island. We came with our families on vacation, or our families moved here and did not stay, abandoning us when they moved on. Some of us just got lost when we went out to stretch our legs. If we were fortunate we were rescued and brought here."

As the sunlight comes through the window and envelops our host, he yawns and stretches. He continues,



"The house is furnished with tables, chairs, and sofas so both cats and our visitors will be comfortable. You can see that the house has been made 'cat friendly.' Sisal has been wrapped around the posts for scratching, the ladder to the loft is carpeted for easy climbing, ramps and ledges have been added near the ceiling and around the loft, and the porch rail has a wide cap for easier perching." He whispers an aside, "Some of us are a bit wider than when we arrived," he chuckles, patting his stomach.

We realize a young orange tabby is watching us from the loft. When she realizes she is being watched, she runs out the window and across the porch roof. "As you can see, the window in the loft is always open and the screen door is missing screen on the bottom to allow us entry and departure. Of course, the weather here is nice year-round, but if we need it, we get warmth from each other," he says, gesturing to several cats rolled together on the other sofa.

Our feline host starts to doze off in the warm sunlight and Catherine tells us that she or her husband visit the house each day to feed, water, check for fleas and deal with litter boxes. They also make time for "kitty loving time," lavishing attention on as many cats as possible. (Think group purr.)

Continued on page 7

Right, Catherine Killam with two of the Cat House residents.



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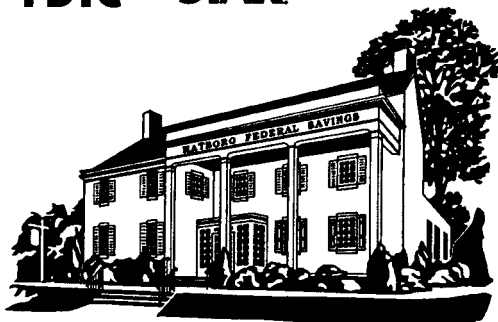
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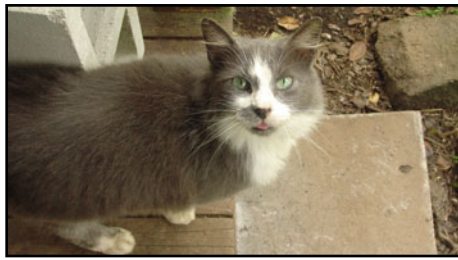
Catherine takes a holistic approach to cat care, concentrating on prevention and early treatment. In addition to a nutritious and balanced diet, she treats each animal as an individual considering the psychological state and lifestyle of the animal. She prefers to use herbal remedies along with touch and massage. She has found that kittens massaged when they are young grow up to be easier to handle and examine when they are older.

She has seen the results of **Rescue Remedy** in calming agitated animals. [Several articles are available at <http://www.peteducation.com/categorysummary.cfm?cls=0&Cat=1306>]

For conditions she cannot control or treat, she relies on the services of local veterinarians. However, because the Killams sustain most of the expense of both Cat-Care and Hale Meow Meow, prevention is key to avoid large vet bills.

Catherine and Kent are deeply committed to the mission of Cat-Care and to their charges at **Hale Meow Meow**. They will continue, despite few donations. Their devotion and love is evident when you walk into the little house in the rainforest on the Big Island of Hawaii.

At Cat Tales, we encourage you to visit the web site at www.catcarehawaii.org and if you can spare some extra money, send a check to help. Tell them Cat Tales sent you.



Right, Karen tries her hand and lap at "kitty loving time." Below, cats gather to exchange observations about the visitors.



Bowling for Kitties

HELP HOMELESS CATS!



JOIN CAT TALES, INC. FOR TWO HOURS OF BOWLING FUN. TICKETS INCLUDE SHOES, SNACKS, RAFFLES AND PRIZES, A TICKET FOR A FUTURE GAME

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CALL FOR TICKETS AT 215-218-9998

March 19, 2005, 3-5pm
THUNDERBIRD LANES, 1475 W. STREET ROAD, WARMINSTER, PA

Scratching Post

is a periodic newsletter
of Cat Tales, Inc., Animal Rescue, a no kill,
non-profit volunteer organization working
for the care and placement of cats in need.

P.O.Box 165, Warminster, PA 18974
Voice mail number at 215-218-9998

Our adoption centers are at:

Petco/Warminster
.....624 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974
Petsmart/Warminster
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Petco/Trappe
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Cat Tales, Inc.
ANIMAL RESCUE

Keep in touch

We hope you will like the stories and want to keep in touch.

You can help **Cat Tales** by taking our "periodical" via e-mail. This will save us the cost of postage and printing. Send a message to our editor, Jeff, at jdodd31@comcast.net. Then we'll e-mail the colorful newsletter to you as an Adobe PDF. It will come from that e-mail address, so don't tag it as spam.

Not interested in receiving this letter? Just let us know at the phone number at the left or the e-mail address above and we'll remove your name from our mailing list as soon as we can. We still thank you for your previous support of Cat Tales.

Do you know of someone else that might be interested in receiving this?

Please send us their name and we will add them to our list. We prefer to send it via e-mail (again, no postage or printing costs), but will send it via the US Post Office upon request.

Advertising Rates

We offer space for advertising in the **Scratching Post**. Our rates are per issue since we don't publish every month.

1/6 page.... \$4.00 1/3 page\$8.00

1/2 page.. \$12.00 Full page \$24.00

The ads will be delivered in black-and-white for our mail customers and color for our e-mail customers. Design assistance is available. Send your inquiries to Jeff at jdodd31@comcast.net.

1 column, 14 picas, 4 points; 2 columns, 29 picas, 10 points; 3 columns, 45 picas. Full page, 57 picas, 6 points; half page, 28 picas.