

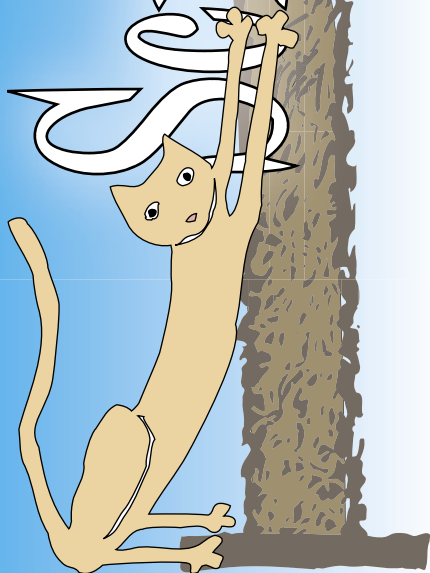


**Cat Tales, Inc.**  
ANIMAL RESCUE

June, 2005

# Scratching Post

A periodic newsletter of the Cat Tales Animal Rescue



## "Hi, I'm Jeff and I have six cats..."

I don't mean to make light of the positive results of 12-step programs, but it has often been said it's a fine line between having too many cats and having mental illness. Ending up with many cats is not the result of an addiction. It's something that happens to you, slowly.

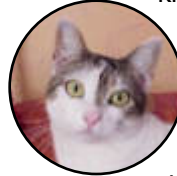
We started with cats when we were asked by an animal rescue group to keep a kitten that had a broken leg after having been hit by a car. She needed "a month of peace and quiet to recuperate." Four years later, Cindy is still seeking peace and quiet and favors the broken leg when the weather is bad. (She's our own furry barometer.)

The next two started with us as fosters. The younger one, Boo, came in as a feral kitten. She was twelve-weeks old and that's too late to socialize. "Moo" was found in a dumpster at the local community college. We thought Boo would stand a better chance of being adopted if she was paired with Moo, who has never met a stranger. They went out for adoption in the beginning of November and I was confident they would be wrestling under the Christmas tree of their new home by the end of the year.

As we left for vacation in mid-January, they were still in an adoption center. Boo was growing up and learning to interact with the volunteers and Moo was getting grouchy being in a cage. We said when we returned from vacation, if they were still available, we'd adopt them. While we were away, we received an e-mail message that someone was adopting them and we were happy they were finally getting a home.

However, after a medical crisis, the new parent returned the cats and we brought them home. The count was now three.

Pablo was the fourth to join us. He came in as a surrender and spent a few days in the garage since we were fostering kittens in the main part of the house. It didn't seem to bother him, and after the vet gave him a clean bill of health, we brought him into the house while we waited for a spot in the adoption center to open up. He took on the role of "Uncle Pablo" with the kittens, roughhousing, playing with them and keeping track of them. ("Where are the kittens Pablo?" He'd walk in the direction of a hiding kitten.) We liked his mellow attitude and added him to the permanent collection.



The fifth cat, Eastman, lavished attention on my wife while she cleaned cages at one of the adoption centers, so he became the first to be intentionally adopted.



It was at this point we had become saturated with cats and only took the sixth, Mieko, since she had issues with children, which is not a good attribute for a quick adoption.



What am I getting to? Simple. Cat Tales has several older cats, set in their ways, who get grouchy when the weather turns bad and require long naps to recuperate after feigning kittenish playfulness. These cats are 6-10 years old and can easily live for another 10 years. Sadly, these cats often spend months in the adoption centers. We will keep them there until they get adopted.



We will not put down a cat because it's not popular and doesn't get adopted. But the cats start to get grouchy, stuck in a cage all of the time. So, if you have one, two or three cats, please consider adding another, experienced cat to your household. The impact is minimal and you'll be getting a great new friend for you and your cat.



*My furry family, top-to-bottom: Cindy, Moo, Boo, Pablo, Eastman and Mieko, each one a unique personality.*

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Cat Tales,

We adopted "Prancer" from Cat Tales on Christmas Eve 2003. His name is now Jake. We have been meaning to let you know how he is doing.

Jake was the best Christmas present we could have hoped for. He is very lovable and affectionate and enjoys taking naps on our laps. He also loves to sleep with us at night. If someone leaves the cabinet door open, he will take the catnip out of the cabinet. He loves to play in his kitty condo and wrestle with stuffed animals. Since Jake came into our house, he showed Oreo (our other cat) who's boss. When Oreo naps in his favorite sunny spot, Jake will lick Oreo's head, then bite him and chase him away, so that he can have that spot.

We wanted to thank you for the work you are doing and also for our precious Jake.

Sincerely,

The Clark Family

*Jake, below, rules the Clark house.*



## Send us your "Happily Ever After" stories

We have published some of the letters we receive from our happy alumnae (we hope all are happy stories). We are also presenting these stories at one of the adoption centers (PetSmart) to share with those who don't get the Scratching Post.

If you want to share your story, send it and a picture of the object(s) of your adoration to Cat Tales, via the post office box address on the back or drop it off with one of the volunteers at the adoption centers



Dear Cat Tales

I had recently lost my cat, Lydia, who I had for 15 years. She was a stray who came into my life unexpectedly. To sum up 15 years of joy, I never thought I would care for and love another animal as much as Lydia. She was an extremely intelligent, playful, social and affectionate cat.

Buddy (above) came along in August of 2003. It is true that you cannot "replace" an animal but you can love another creature with the same heart. Buddy is a sweet, gentle soul and I hope to have him as part of my life for many more years

Thanks, Cat Tales!

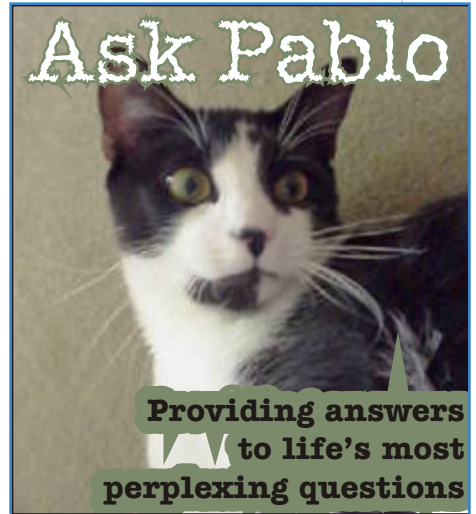
Sarah Nestor and Buddy

Dear Cat Tales

I am writing to let you know Mischief (Missy) is doing fine. She made our home her home. We love her and she loves us. Every night when I watch TV, she is on my lap, wanting to be petted. I want you to know she has a wonderful loving home.

Jane Sciallo

*At left, Jane loves Mischief (Missy)*



Dear Pablo,

My cat's getting pretty pudgy. How can I help her lose a few pounds?

*Larry in Lansdale*

Larry,

Obesity in cats can lead to many of the same health problems that affect humans - cardiovascular problems, diabetes, joint issues and large indentations in the couch.

First, check with your veterinarian to determine your cat's target weight. If you can't lift her onto the scale, it's a good sign she's overweight. Your veterinarian will likely suggest that you start by monitoring her food intake. You may need to measure the amount of food she's given on a daily basis. It may also mean you feed her four or five small meals a day instead of one big meal.

The vet may also put her on a weight control formula food. Sometimes these are prescription foods and you need to make sure you don't run out when the vet's office is closed and substitute the fattening stuff in the interim. Otherwise she'll realize there are better foods available if she just waits long enough.

Exercise is also important, but a tiny treadmill for her is likely to gather dust just like yours. Schedule some play time and keep her active. You can also get her another cat or two. A couple rounds of chase will help melt the pounds away.

# "Bowling for Kitties" Scores a Perfect Game



Channeling Elvis on Lane 22.



Above, Linda Hoffman and her sister Jenny share the prize of one of the raffles, a hand-made afghan.

On March 19, friends of Cat Tales met at the Thunderbird Lanes in Warminster for "Bowling for Kitties." The teams filled twenty lanes and many enjoyed it more when we figured out how to get the bumpers to pop up on the lane for their frames. Everyone was given a goodie bag of chips, cookies, candy and their choice of a bottled drink. Each bag also included a coupon for a free game of bowling at a later date.

This brought many new faces into a Cat Tales fund-raiser and it was a successful day for us. We brought in over \$700 to help support the feeding, maintenance and veterinarian expenses of our cats.

Thank you to everyone who attended and a big "thank you" to Jodi Borgmann, Lori Riboski and Sue Davidson for organizing the event. [And thanks to "Eastman" for modeling the bowling outfit for the illustration on the poster.]

**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

**\$20 A TICKET**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS FORM A TEAM CALL FOR TICKETS AT 215-218-9998

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



# Petsmart Adoption Weekend

Cat Tales participated in the **Spring '05 National Adoption Weekend** at Petsmart in Warminster April 29–May 1, 2005.

We had volunteers there each day and sent eight cats and kittens to new homes that weekend. Cat Tales received a bonus from the Petsmart Charities for each adoption that weekend.

We also had a bake sale of delicious chocolate dipped strawberries, muf-

ins and absolutely addictive brownies. (My blood sugar has finally returned to normal.)

We also raffled off "Ima Spinster," a stuffed teddy bear that has an amazing resemblance to one of our foster parents. A big thank you to everyone who donated baked goods, bought baked goods or otherwise donated money to our cause that weekend. Congratulations to Betty Badger who adopted a wonderful cat AND won the Ima Spinster raffle.



## "Thank You" to our Young Friends

Cat Tales wants to recognize two of our young friends.

First is Joseph Barnhart. Joey enjoyed his afternoon at the bowling alley when he and his dad were "Bowling for Kitties," and afterwards, he wanted to do something for the cats. With his mom's help, Joey put together a collection of goodies of food, litter and cat toys and donated that to Cat Tales.

We also wish to thank Mike Meloche and his parents who have been spending their time on the weekends answering questions and promoting the adoptions of the cats at the Petsmart Adoption Center. We



have heard great things from the other volunteers and customers on his enthusiasm and dedication to the job.



Joey and Timmy, on the left, and Mike and his favorite buddy Stanley, above.

# Your Printer Can Benefit The Cats

IF you have a computer AND you have an ink jet printer or a laser printer, does it annoy you when you throw away those bulky empty cartridges?

Cat Tales can earn extra money recycling ink jet cartridges, laser toner cartridges and even old cell phones.

We are going to try an experiment: we are going to collect printer cartridges and submit them for recycling credit.

It helps the planet and helps the kitties.

Drop your empty cartridges off at one of the adoption centers in a small plastic bag. (Some can still leak and we don't want to leave a mess.) We will collect them every few days and ship them back. We'll let you know how we do. Thanks.

For a list of acceptable cartridges, go to:

<http://www.cashforcritters.com/cartridgelistings.htm>

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## New Phone and Fax Number

In addition to the previous voice-mail number (215-218-9998), we are adding a second number. The new number (215-933-6900) offers voice mail and fax service.

We will keep the other line for a while, but please feel free to use the new line.

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## Foster Homes Needed

If you have a spare room and can give at least an hour a night to pet, play with and brush a cat, you could be a foster parent.

When a cat is surrendered, we don't often have an immediate place for them in the adoption centers. A cat needs to be kept for a week or so until space opens up. If a mother comes in with kittens, we need to keep the family until the kittens are 6-8 weeks old.

You will need to take the cat to a veterinarian as needed and food, litter and vet costs are reimbursed. Give us a call for further information.

Dear Dog and Cat,

— When I say "move," it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two of you in the way.

— The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. (Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate of food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food & dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest).

— The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

— I cannot buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs and cats sleeping. They can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking your tails straight out and having your tongues hanging out the other end to maximize the space used is nothing but sarcasm.

— My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

— For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using the bathroom for years... canine or feline attendance is not mandatory or necessary.

To pacify you, I have posted the following message on our front door.....

Rules for Non-pet owners who visit and like to complain about our pets:

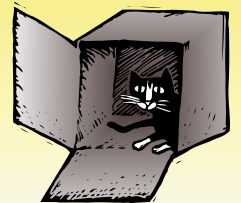
- They live here; you don't.
- If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture.
- I like my pet better than I like most people.
- To you it's an animal. To me he and/or she is an adopted son and/or daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and is speech challenged. Dogs and cats are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't drink or smoke, don't worry about buying the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they get pregnant, you can sell the results.

Sincerely,

The Food Bowl Filler

## Volunteers Needed!

- *Adoption center volunteers*
- *Foster parents*
- *Fund raising Volunteers*



If you can help us, please call

# Petco Foundation Benefits Cat Tales

Cat Tales was the beneficiary of the PETCO Foundation's 2004 "Tree of Hope" in-store fund raiser. The fund raiser, which ran from November 21 through December 24, encouraged pet lovers to donate \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to animal welfare causes. Each donor received an "ornament" that was displayed in the window. (So now you know what those things in the window represent.) Customers, associates and vendors of the Trappe and Warminster Petco stores donated over \$650 to Cat Tales via the ornaments.

We wish to thank everyone who shopped at Petco and donated via the "Tree of Hope" and to the people who stopped by and visited our cats.



## Spring Kitten Season Appeal Successful

Facing an abundance of kittens in the 2005 Kitten Season and expensive veterinarian bills for a few of our cats, we sent out appeal letters in an effort to cover the cost of caring for the kittens expected this year. The response was amazing.

We've had a 12% response rate to date (most mail marketers are happy with 4% response) and we've raised over \$2,400. We have handled over

25 kittens in our foster homes so far this year and phone calls of people finding expectant mothers under the porch have continue to arrive on our voice mail.

We are deeply grateful to those who have donated, expecting nothing in return. If we missed you (and I don't know how we did) you can still give.

- \$26.00 — Covers tests, inoculations and de-worming for one kitten

- \$50.00 — Covers distemper inoculations and boosters for eight kittens
- \$65.00 — Covers food and litter for eight weeks for one kitten
- \$100.00 — Covers feline leukemia and feline aids tests for ten kittens

No free tote bag, no DVDs, no coffee mugs. But if you stop by an adoption center, you can rub noses with a beneficiary.



### *Cleaning House?*

*If you are cleaning out closets this time of year and have over-worn:*

- Towels
- Blankets and
- Sheets

*Cat Tales can use them for the condos at the adoption centers. We launder what we can, but if kitty gets an upset stomach, sometimes it is easier to throw away a soiled towel than wash it.*

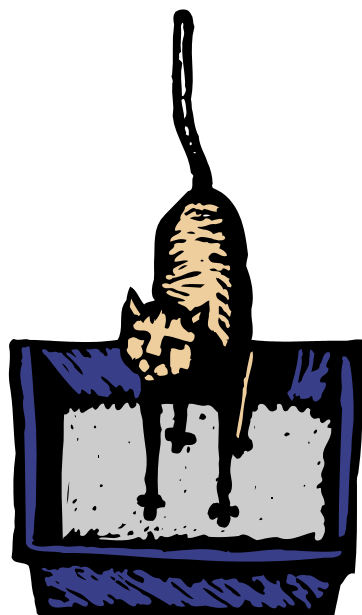
*Give your donations to any of the volunteers at the adoption center. Thank you!*

*It's me, the cat, Cody. You know, the one in the first floor condo at Petsmart in Warminster. I'm the brown and black Mackerel Tabby. I've been hangin' at Cat Tales for awhile waiting for Mr. or Ms. Right.*

*It's been pretty busy around here. The children are running all over the place. Overheard a couple of the kiddos talking about going back to school. I guess that is pretty exciting. Did you know cats go to school? That is why we are always so interested in reading the newspaper. Of course, we don't like to read it alone. We are social critters. The best part of the paper is the part our servant is reading. You know, servant, the person who feeds and cares for us. The one who adores us. Well, that is the way it is suppose to be. I'm currently without one and looking for a replacement.*

*By the way, thanks for sponsoring me. Cat Tales has been making sure that I get everything I need. Thanks to you and other sponsors, cats like me have a safe place to stay until we get a new reading partner. Between you and me, I hope I am not here much longer. Don't get me wrong, but I'm ready to move into larger accommodations, if you get my drift.*

*Take it easy,  
Cody*



## Single room, two meals a day, private litter box.

A single cat cannot afford these simple accommodations. You can help by sponsoring a "cat condominium" to help defray the costs of keeping and caring for cats until we find them a happy home.

**\$10.00 a month**

Your contribution will cover veterinary bills, food and litter. In exchange, each month you will get a photo and letter from one of the cats.

## Condo Sponsorship

If you are looking for a gift for the person who has everything, you can give a gift of sponsoring a cat condo at one of the Cat Tales adoption centers. For \$10 a month, you can support the care of our cats.

At left is an example of a sponsor letter sent out in September of 2003. For those who visit the Warminster Petsmart may also recognize the writer, Cody. He's back but he's lost some weight (down five pounds from 21 pounds). He been on a diet and that's made him a bit grouchy (isn't that normal?), but he still has some weight to lose. (Those last pounds are always the hardest.)

You can get the sponsorship for yourself or someone else. Just send us the address and a check for at least one month and we'll send a letter featuring one of our fine felines.

## Coming Events

Cat Tales will be participating in Hatboro Summer Fun Festival's Pet Rescue Fair on Saturday, July 16 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will be there with a collection of cats and kittens (if they are available). Stop by and see us.

If you can volunteer to work at the table for 2 1/2 or 5 hours, please let us know. Thanks.

## What Happened to the Fashion Show?

In the insert of the last newsletter, we mentioned an upcoming fashion show. If you were looking forward to it, we're sorry it was cancelled. By the time we secured a location, the fashion provider had run out of time. We don't know when it will be rescheduled.

# 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  
Fax and voice mail at 215-933-6900

Our adoption centers are at:  
Petco/Warminster  
..... 624 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974  
PetSmart/Warminster  
..... 934 W. Street Road, Warminster, PA 18974  
Petco/Trappe  
..... 130 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426



**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](mailto: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](mailto:jdodd31@comcast.net).

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