



cat depotTM

A Rescue, Adoption, Education and Resource Center



2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234 • info@catdepot.org • www.catdepot.org • 941.366.2404

Issue 9 • Fall/Winter 200

We've moved! "Dot Cat" tells all.



Hello Cat Aficionados. For those who have followed my ongoing

column, I am Dot Cat, a feline roving reporter and former alumni of Cat Depot. As a social butterfly blessed with the gift of gab, I am the voice for all the homeless felines at Cat Depot.

It's been a dog's age since our last newsletter and I was beginning to think I'd be joining the ranks of the unemployed. But I understand the founders have been quite busy of late. Word on the street is that Cat Depot has opened a five-star feline adoption center. So, I've taken it upon myself to report to you and all the deserving felines currently awaiting adoption what's happening at Cat Depot's new, awesome 10,000 square foot feline adoption center.

The wonderful folks who constructed this building "thought like cats" and from one who knows, they did an amazing job when considering how a cat thinks and what they

like. Half of the new building is designed for cats, with its own air filtration system that removes cat dander and hair so folks who are sensitive to cats no longer have an excuse not to visit. What a concept! In addition, there are ten free-roaming areas (housing 12-14 cats each) and seven of these areas have outdoor enclosures that allow cats to enjoy leisurely siesta sunbaths and an in-vogue new feature: fresh air! Cats cur-

added to drive home Cat Depot's commitment to stop the euthanasia of so many feline friends. What a great model for responsible pet owners everywhere! Cats can get to know their new potential family in two comfortable socialization rooms (as we all know, it's the felines who choose their people).

In addition to the new state-of-the-art adoption center, Cat Depot cats and I

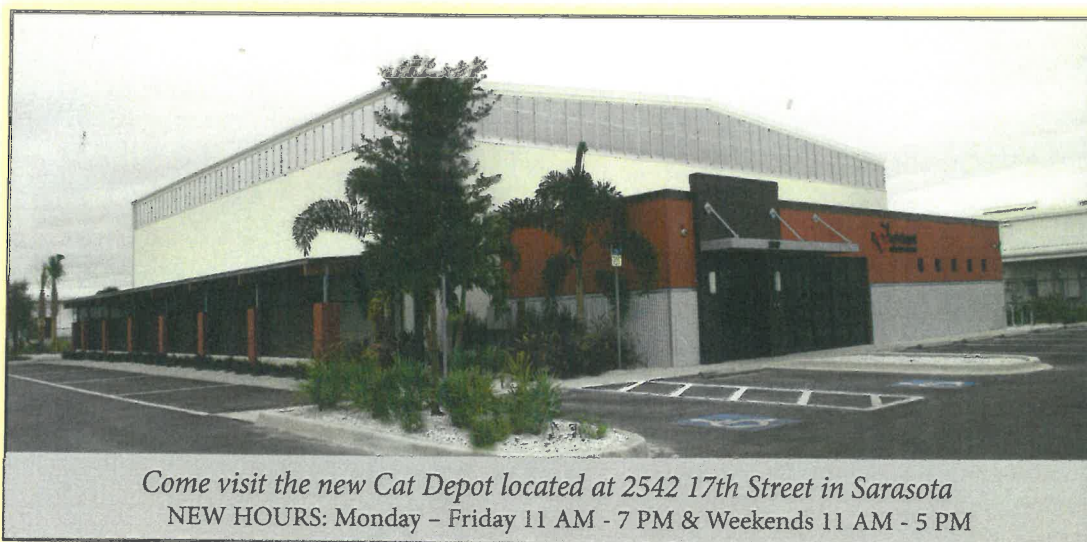
research and mitts-on knowledge, Cat Depot is proud to open this one-of-a-kind facility designed with the cat's psyche in mind. My feline friends encourage you and your family to adopt, foster, volunteer, donate and attend our new educational programs for kids and adults. There will be activities galore, including membership opportunities to help my many friends who are waiting in line to get in.

Watch for our big hoopla on February 27: Cat'sino Nautical Night, held at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Can someone explain to me what cocktail attire is appropriate for a feline roving reporter?

Well,

that's the latest hot information, but I'll be back in 2010 with another illustrious update. Until then, come visit my comrades and Happy Holidays!

Dot Cat



Come visit the new Cat Depot located at 2542 17th Street in Sarasota
NEW HOURS: Monday - Friday 11 AM - 7 PM & Weekends 11 AM - 5 PM

rently awaiting homes of their own are psyched about their relocation and have asked me if they can reserve a suite with an outdoor balcony.

The new Cat Depot has thought of it all. Although we rarely miss the litter boxes, the floors are waterproof and there are quiet admittance and recovery rooms. A new "to live for" clinic for examinations, dentals, spays and neuters was

salute Shelley Thayer, our new Executive Director, who was previously employed at the world-renowned sanctuary Best Friends, located in Utah. In the short time she has been at the helm, her magic and extensive marketing background have greatly assisted the organization and direction of Cat Depot. She is the piece of our puzzle that was missing.

After six years, volumes of



Share Cat Depot with a Friend • Give the Gift of Membership!



THE INSIDE SCOOP

Responsible for positive change

By Shelley Thayer
Cat Depot Executive Director

One act of kindness, no matter how small, elicits positive change. The man who helps the turtle across the road, or the woman who finds an abandoned kitten and, fearing for his life, takes him in. These acts of kindness create positive change.

Every day, we are given these opportunities, and like the spokes in a wheel, it all comes together and begins to move in the direction of good. This has been my experience since I moved to Sarasota on July 1st of this year and began working as the executive director of Cat Depot.

During my first day on the job, a staff member went the extra mile or, in this case, 200 miles to ensure that several abandoned cats were rescued and brought to safety. A volunteer awoke before dawn on her day off to help clean cat cages, and another volunteer worked late into the night to place photos on adoption websites in the hope of finding families for homeless cats. These responsible and selfless acts are

happening daily at Cat Depot and the wheel is really starting to turn!

Early in my career, education and teaching filled my days in Michigan. But I soon became intrigued with marketing, and was offered a position with a firm in Chicago. That position led to the day, many years later, when I started my own marketing company in Irvine, California. It was a great team effort and General Mills, McCormick & Company, Best Foods, Pepsi and other corporations kept us on our toes. When the company was sold, I became one of several co-founders in a free school lunch menu program for children. The menu promoted good eating habits and was distributed in 40 states to four million children every month. I ran the operations for this venture, which I am happy to say, is still

in business today.

From childhood and throughout my career, I have maintained a constant love for animals. My first love was a big orange cat, my second was a scruffy dog, and the list grew to eventually include a very kind horse. I belonged to as many animal welfare organizations as I could afford and volunteered at local shelters as a bottle feeder for kittens, a foster parent and an orchestrator of fundraising events.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, I knew I had to help. I packed my truck and headed to Best Friends Animal Society. My two-week rescue stint in Louisiana stretched into five months and by the time I returned home, I was working for Best Friends and heading to another disaster. Three years later, I had worked in rescue operations throughout the U.S. and had headed up logistics for the rescue of 200 animals from Lebanon. At the request of a Best Friends founder, I relocated to Utah and together we greatly increased memberships in a down turned economy. It took everyone working together to get that wheel rolling!

While in Utah, I wrote Best Friends' first 200 page Rapid Response Field Operations

Handbook and conducted their first three-day rescue training with 100 volunteers. Three years of field experience, along with a long list of certifications and another year at Best Friends headquarters helped me to prepare.

For me, the best of all worlds collided when I learned

**I invite everyone to visit,
become a member, volunteer, or
just stop by to say "hello"...**

about Cat Depot. This was my chance to fulfill a vision for positive change and make a difference for cats. In a country that kills 70 percent of cats who enter animal shelters, there is a tremendous need for Cat Depot, locally and on a national level.

The wheel is moving and with your help, turning in the direction of good. I invite everyone to visit, become a member, volunteer, or just stop by to say hello and socialize with our beautiful cats and kittens. We are all responsible for creating positive change and together we can keep the wheel rolling.



Gail Hall and Lorrie Amodio of event sponsor Cupcakes a Go-Go read "If You Give Your Cat A Cupcake" to fifty children and their parents gathered at Cat Depot. Children participated in a face painting, games, a book reading, cupcake decorating and basic kitty care education before enjoying time with cats and kittens.



Cat lovers from Girls Inc. of Sarasota filmed our furry felines.

Take a peek inside Cat Depot's new home



Volunteer, Tara Morningstar participates in a socialization program designed to develop social skills with shy cats.



Kaitlyn Siegel enjoys a purr.



Marco Smith's smile says it all as he adopts Eddie.



Custom-designed cubbies give our feline friends a comforting, calm environment.

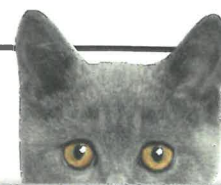


Our state-of-the-art veterinary facilities and highly trained veterinary technicians give extraordinary care to our feline friends.

Jennifer Chatt
Vet Tech



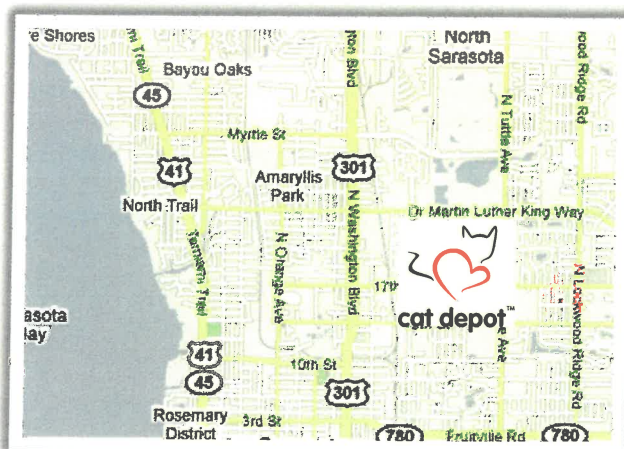
Cat Depot, one of the largest nonprofit adoption centers in the nation has changed the destiny of nearly 4,000 formerly homeless felines, currently living joyful lives because of the generosity of people like you!



Each "pod" features individual seating and custom cat furniture designed to allow privacy while maintaining visibility.



Come browse through our gift shop for wonderful, reasonably priced cat-themed items. Your purchases support Cat Depot!



Visit us at our new location: 2542 17th Street in Sarasota.



Rory the
Talking Cat

Rory has a lot to say and like Alvin the chipmunk, he can't stop talking. As a result, he has been adopted and returned not once, but twice. Why would anyone return an adopted cat for talking too much? Perhaps it's because when the neighbors heard Rory talking nonstop – and at the top of his lungs – they thought he was in trouble. So, they called animal control for help. Or, it could be that when the lights went out at night and Rory was alone, he began to yowl and run around the house pushing everything off the table tops. Could Rory be possessed? Not likely. Yet, something was definitely troubling this young boy.

Rory came to Cat Depot when his person lost her home due to hard times. Like most cats who are relinquished by their family, Rory was confused. He talked to anyone who would listen. When the shelter door opened in the morning, Rory would begin to tell his tale of woe. The more the cat caregivers talked to Rory, the more he would tell them. Then one day, a woman came in looking for a "talking cat." Staff members were overjoyed and led her straight to Rory. But, for whatever reason, this gorgeous boy zipped his lips. That's right, he buttoned them tight. Cuddling, petting and even cooing at him would not produce a peep.

Time went on and Rory no longer ran up to the front of his cage to greet new prospects. He was removed from his premium location in the front of the adoption center and moved to the back to run freely with two other cats. There, Rory remained silent. Then one day, he was spotted by a woman who wanted a gentle cat for her mother and Rory appeared to be the perfect candidate. He was content to sit in her lap for 30 minutes and happy to be petted and stroked. The adoption papers were signed. A few days later, however, Cat Depot received a call: Rory would not stop talking and now he was also crying. As wonderful as Cat Depot is, every feline wants and needs a family to call his own. Rory is no exception. So, what went wrong, we asked ourselves?

Upon pulling Rory's file, staff noted that both times Rory was adopted, he was the only cat in the home. There was no information about whether Rory had lived with other cats in his original home, but we wondered: Was Rory talking because he was lonely? Did he cry at night because he missed his feline friends?

Rory is hoping someone will give him a third chance at finding love, but this time he wants to go to a home that has other cats. He gets along well with friendly cats and is not demanding in their presence. He is a kind and gentle boy who enjoys being petted, brushed and loved. Rory especially looks forward to having something good to talk about. If you are interested in adopting Rory, please call, 941.366.2404.

Vote for Cat Depot in Sarasota's Pets Choice Awards!

Best Rescue Group • Best Animal Organization

Please vote –it only takes 3 seconds. Go to: www.sarasotaPet.com

Community involvement highlights...

OPERATION RED, WHITE & NEW



Cat Depot is proud to help our military personnel
For information about our foster program for deployed soldiers or to become a foster parent, call **941.366.2404** or visit our website at **www.catdepot.org**

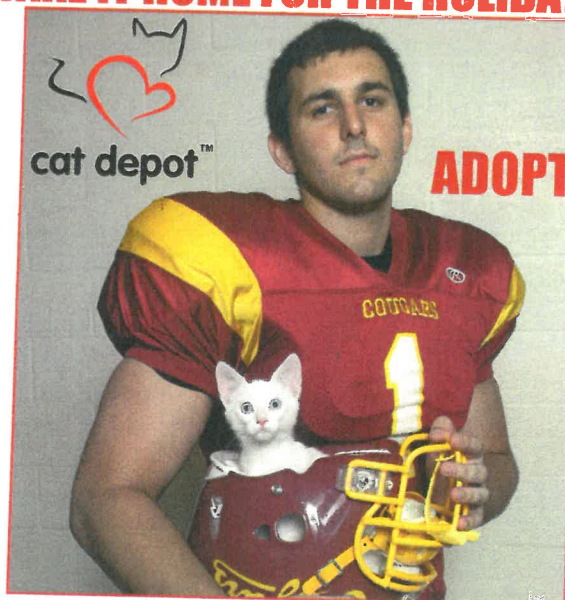
Open 7 days a week.
Monday – Friday 11am – 7pm,
Sat – Sun 11am to 5pm

New location:
2542 17th Street, Sarasota

Visit with our 150 beautiful cats and kittens

Adopt – Foster – Volunteer – Donate

TAKE IT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Grayson Weber, senior, Cardinal Mooney High School with Cotton (Photo by Evelyn England from SageArt)

NEW LOCATION • NEW TIMES • NEW KITTIES
2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234 941 • 366 • 2404
www.catdepot.org

Watch for our Holiday Adoption Series, in local publications, featuring football players, a coach and a principal from five high schools from Venice to Bradenton.

Share Cat Depot with a Friend • Give the Gift of Membership!



Volunteers are key to our success!

If you have a talent, or simply love cats, please consider becoming a volunteer. We need tour guides, cleaners, receptionists, retail store helpers, cat socializers, writers, graphic designers, transporters, committee members for fundraising events and projects, adoption and volunteer helpers for on and off site events, dish and litter pan washers and volunteers to assist with laundry. Training will be provided.

Please support our mission of saving lives by becoming one of our valuable volunteers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Call 366.2404



*Please Help Us Save Lives.
Make a donation and
become a member!*

*This holiday season light a candle of hope for homeless felines. Your donation will help provide critical care for our ongoing 150 cats and kittens.
Thank you for your needed support.*



Who Rules The Roost?

It's Sunday morning, you can sleep late, but are awakened by something warm, soft and furry resting against your face. If it's your partner, he needs a shave; if it's the cat, playing dead often buys you time. As you fall back to sleep, you are awakened by someone stalking the lumps under the quilt (also known as your feet).

You open one eye, eliminate your partner as the culprit, and realize the cat-must want breakfast. You refuse to give in, although now it's a game of win or lose and you're no longer feeling lucky. All is quiet and you play dead again to allot you more shut-eye, but then a wail pierces the darkness and a catnip toy is dropped on your chest. That's it, he wins: a tuna croissant is in the works.

Sound familiar? We know who rules your roost. You are not alone! Although many cats naturally purr when they are happy, research suggests that some

household cats send a very different message to their humans when they are hungry.

According to Karen McComb of Sussex University in England, "The embedding of a cry within a call that we normally associate with contentment is quite a subtle means of eliciting a response." So, it is no surprise that humans, upon hearing these food-seeking purrs, respond as they would when a baby cries for food. Not all cats use this method of communication, but if they find their human responds to it when they are hungry, they use it to their advantage. Yes, your cat really is the boss!

New research suggests that it is a wonder that cats and humans ever developed a relationship. When humans learned how to grow crops, around 10,000 years ago, they started domesticating wild animals in order to supply humans with food, clothing or labor, but cats were unlikely candidates for domestication because they provided people with very little sustenance or work. Cats,

being solitary hunters and territorial animals, could not be herded; since they caught their own prey and were carnivores, they couldn't, like humans, survive on plants. In addition, they didn't take well to instruction.

Cats did assist humans with the elimination of snakes and mice, and they were worshipped as deities by ancient Egyptians. Via trade routes, cats spread eastward and in the 1600s, cats arrived in the US via the Mayflower.

So, the question remains, who chose who? History suggests that cats developed a relationship with people instead of the other way around. Then and now, cats continue to seduce humans with their adorable features and elicit nurturing feelings in humans. But, with over 600 million cats in homes worldwide, the proof is in the pudding. If you're looking to adopt one of these endearing creatures, make a visit to Cat Depot and see for yourself.

My name is Dexter and I am a very good boy. I love watching birds and playing with toys. Many of my roommates have found a home (but, I wait patiently to find a place of my own.) Not getting a forever home is my biggest fear. I have been at Cat Depot for almost a year. Please give me the chance to be your good pal. I will be forever thankful, meow, meow.



Where there's a will, there's a way

At one time or another, we have all answered the telephone and heard the voice of despair. At Cat Depot it is an everyday occurrence. On this particular day, the call was from New York. A woman's uncle had passed away, leaving 30 cats without care.

To make matters worse, the cats were locked inside a house without food or water. The location? Homosassa, Florida. The first priority was to get immediate care for the cats. Was there a will or provisions made for the cats? Was there a relative who could help? And, most importantly, where was Homosassa?

The will did not mention the cats, though they were dearly loved by the deceased to the point that he had often gone with less to provide his family of cats with more. The relatives were overwhelmed at the number of cats and no one wanted even one of them. Desperate to find help for the felines, the niece searched the internet for no-kill animal centers and ended up calling Cat Depot, but not until she had called every shelter within close range of the cats.

No one wanted to take in 30 cats, if that really was the number. In these types of situations, there's often many more animals than reported. Cat Depot, often a reference

source, provided the niece with additional shelters to call. Hours later, however, the niece called again, having received "no" as an answer from shelters across the state of Florida. She said she would keep trying to find placement for the cats.

What was resolved, though, was provision of food and water for the cats, who totaled 21 adults and 4 kittens inside the house and an additional 10 cats outside the house. The immediate crisis was over, but then a relative telephoned animal control. A date was set and the cats had only a few days before they would be collected.

The night before the collection date no one had stepped forward to help. Cat Depot did not have room for 35 cats, but devised a plan to divide and conquer. Cat Depot manager, Marilyn Warner and volunteer Joyce Fuller led the charge with the help of Connie Brooks, Director of Operations, SPCA Tampa Bay. Cat Depot could not have completed this task without her help. Manatee County Humane Society and Sarasota County Humane Society also helped by taking a few of these wonderful cats. These cats were not going to die.



Kirk



Koal

Homosassa, located in Citrus County, is about 125 miles from Sarasota and the travel time is a little over two hours. The cats, who were all highly adoptable and very glad to meet welcoming arms, were loaded into vehicles and driven away.

Fate was smiling on those beautiful kids that day, and Cat Depot had a hand in it. There's an important lesson to be learned from this story though: everyone needs to have a plan for their loved ones, including the family pets, in the event of their

demise. Please do not assume that family members will step in or even care about your pets when you're gone. For information about living wills or trusts, contact your attorney or call Cat Depot for details.

Of the 11 cats who were rescued by Cat Depot, two remain, they are: Koal and Kirk. These potential family members are well-behaved, good-natured and very loving. For information about adopting these cats, contact Cat Depot or stop by and pay them a visit. They will love you for it.

The Perfect Holiday Gift!

Give the animal lover in your life a membership to Cat Depot. Your recipient will receive one of four cards featuring Cat Depot cats. Select the card of your choice and we will send acknowledgement of your gift within one week. It's our guarantee to you. Your recipient will also receive 3 uplifting newsletters throughout the year. Membership is perfect for any occasion – birthdays, graduations, retirement or just because you care. Your donation is tax deductible and a receipt will be mailed to you.



Watch for our next children's event. Youngsters like Hannah Wharton (on left) discover the importance of cat handling skills, cat socialization and cat care.

Events like "If You Give A Cat A Cupcake", sponsored by Cupcakes a Go-Go, are a wonderful way to spend quality time with your children, while helping them to learn valuable skills and have fun!

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Mark your calendar for two important events!

Cat'sino Nautical Night 2010



6:30 PM Saturday, February 27, 2010
at The Sarasota Yacht Club

1100 John Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL

Proceeds to benefit Cat Depot

Gala extraordinaire to benefit the animals!

Scrumptious dinner overlooking a moonlit bay. Mixologists at open bars for your pleasure. Gambling with Texas Hold'em, Blackjack, Roulette, Poker and Craps. Raffles & silent auction. Music by Mello Vibes for listening and dancing pleasure. Honorary emcee, actress, director and activist, Carolyn Michel to lead the festivities that include the internationally renowned and beautiful Lander Sisters. Tickets \$150 with all proceeds going to help the cats. Please join us for an exciting evening to celebrate life!

CAT DEPOT GRAND OPENING



Saturday, January 16

&

Sunday January 17, 2010
from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

2542 17th Street, Sarasota
941.366.2404

Now open 7 days a week

Monday - Friday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Saturday & Sunday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Our sincere thanks to talented artist, Dan McKinley. Dan's cards and prints are available for sale in our gift shop.

The Odd Couple

When Cat Depot manager Marilyn Warner received a phone call from a woman about a distressed kitten in her driveway, Marilyn jumped into action. She telephoned a trained trapper who is a friend to Cat Depot. As fate would have it, the trapper was on the road and agreed to stop by the house right away.

When she arrived, the kitten kept her distance, not allowing the trapper to come too close. Being keen to the ways of free-roaming cats, the trapper set a trap and placed a particularly potent-smelling food inside it. As expected, the kitten's hunger outweighed her fear and she walked into the trap. Little did the kitten know, it was her lucky day.

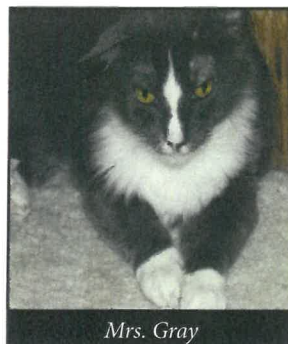
The trapper noticed that the kitten had a severe leg injury and needed emergency vet care. Soon after the kitten arrived at Cat Depot's veterinary clinic, Palm Aire Animal Medical Center, it was established that the injured leg would need to be amputated. The little black kitten was named Tres, which means "three" in Spanish.

According to the veterinary staff, Tres was easy to befriend because she was so dependent. Soon, she became a love bug and was able to navigate quite nicely on three legs. When word got out that she was looking for a loving home, the calls came flooding in.

Two women, Misty and Kristin, came to look at Tres and fell



Tres



Mrs. Gray

in love with her instantly. Tres cuddled until it was time for her to rest. Instead of leaving the center, these kind women stayed to socialize with the other kitties. That's when they spotted a very old gal named Mrs. Gray, who had been at the facility for far too long.

Of course, Mrs. Gray was not as pretty as many of the other cats. Like Grizabella in the famous musical Cats, Mrs. Gray's old coat was shaved in places, and skin problems left her fur looking patchy and worn. She had one ear that stood straight up and one ear that was permanently damaged and bent over. A shy old girl and a bit nervous, Mrs. Gray had been passed by hundreds of times and although the attention was nice, she had grown to expect nothing more.

Misty and Kristin felt terrible about taking a kitten when an older cat had been overlooked so many times. Within the hour a decision was made. Tres would leave the facility with an older, wiser companion to look out for her. Tres and sweet old Mrs. Gray were both adopted by Misty and Kristin, making it a banner day for Cat Depot and the two kitties.

Cat Depot is now located at 2542 17th Street in Sarasota

New Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11 AM to 7 PM, Sat. and Sun. 11 AM to 5 PM

Their wish? A home for the holidays!

Cat Depot Holiday Wish List:
Snuggly beds, scratching posts, toys and heat discs.



Adopt a best friend and receive the gift of love – 150 healthy cats and kittens are waiting for you.



*Your gift of love will give cats like
Allegra a second chance at life.*

*Cat Depot
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Sarasota, FL 34234-1905*

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