



cat depot connection



It's Kitten Season
Help Them
Blossom!



Dear Friend of Cat Depot –

I am excited to say that my personal kitties (Mom Lola and her two six-year-old girls, Inky and Smokey) arrived from California with the rest of my family in early April. They are such joys and are all adjusting to their new digs spectacularly! Yay!

With regard to transitions, there is a lot going on at Cat Depot and a lot more opportunity to become involved! We are proud to launch a new, mobile friendly website with some added color, easy navigation and there are even more new features yet to come. Keep an eye out for events, volunteer opportunities and look for us out in the community.

The new vibe of the website will carry over into plans for updated on-site signage, educational materials, and in-house activities geared to engage visitors of all ages both at Cat Depot and in the Education Center. We will need your help in order to see all of these exciting opportunities come to fruition – all in the name of our love of cats!

These efforts begin as we wrap up our fifteenth successful year in Sarasota and plan toward a robust and sustainable future. As a non-profit, we rely on your volunteer support and generous donations to make all of our programs on behalf of cats possible. We have placed over 500 cats in homes already in 2019! Please reach out to our staff directly – or better yet – stop by! We love seeing you – and we know you'll enjoy visiting the kitties. After all, it is kitten season and we invite you in for a kitten canoodle (or two).

Our best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Jackie Ott Jaakola, Executive Director



Passing the Scratch Test

In order to peacefully cohabitate with our feline friends, finding a scratching post that best meets your needs and those of your cats' is essential. Scratching enables cats to stretch and visually mark their territory via scent glands in their paw pads. Scratching also provides emotional releases (stress or excitement) and exercise for senior cats.

There are a vast array of scratching posts to choose from so taking note of your cat's scratching behaviors can save you time and money. If your cat likes fabrics with texture, purchase sisal and rope wrapped posts. If your cat scratches horizontally, choose an inexpensive cardboard scratching box while vertical scratchers might prefer the classic upright post. Multi-level condos offer retreats for kittens or cats to exercise, sleep and play. Purchasing a nubby outdoor industrial rug is also an equally effective alternative to fulfill kitty's scratching needs.

Expect some trial and error when teaching your cat to use a scratching post. Should kitty begin scratching an undesirable area, rub or spray catnip on the post and move it to the area where he plays and sleeps. When he's successful, give him lots of love and attention or reward him with a treat. Never punish a cat, a firm no is all that is needed.

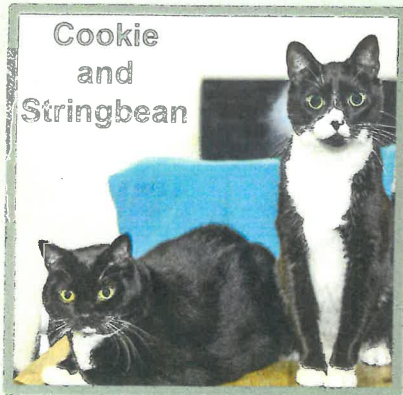
A well-chosen and properly placed scratching post can fulfill an indoor cat's natural instincts. Share a much-needed peace pipe by also learning, via your veterinarian, how to safely keep kitty's nails trimmed.

Linda Slavin, Cat Depot Co-Founder



Thank you Connie Summers Photography.

Double the Love



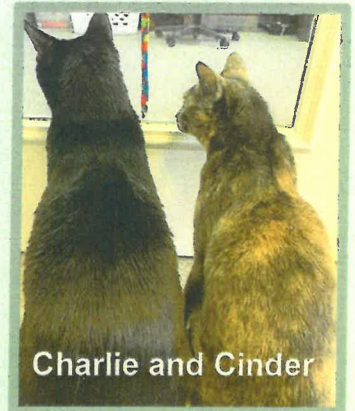
Cat people know that the stereotype of the independent, aloof cat is not always accurate. Cats are frequently cuddly, friendly, and even clingy. It's not only humans that cats form relationships with - they can also bond with other cats. Close social bonds are the building blocks of community cat colonies, but they can form inside homes, too.

A "bonded pair" means that there are two cats who are so close that separating them would be detrimental to their well-being. You may have seen it in your own home: when one cat passes, its buddy goes from room to room, trying to find the friend again. The survivor may even become lethargic or stop eating. Most bonded pairs have spent years together in a home forming close ties.

They are often related cats, siblings, or parent-child pairs, however not every pair of siblings will bond. Like humans, some pairs of cats just need more personal space.

Some cats are extra special - like adoptable(s) Charlie - part of a bonded pair with Cinder. Charlie recently donated serum to help save a young, orphaned kitten's eye. So not only does Cinder rely on Charlie for company - he is a hero to young Paprika who would have otherwise lost both eyes to damage and infection.

How can you tell if your cats are bonded? Some clues are the ways they interact. Cats with close bonds engage in mutual grooming, casual affection, and may eat, sleep, or play together. You will see them rub their bodies against each other when they walk, and go "nose-to-nose" to sniff each other's faces. These bonds provide stimulation, security, and companionship to the cats, especially when their humans are busy or absent.



Come by Cat Depot to meet and adopt our bonded pairs today!
Bender, Adoption Counselor

Updated Programs

Here at Cat Depot we are dedicated to creating, not only a better today for our cats, but a better future as well. We have been working on updating and expanding our education, volunteer, and outreach programs. We are partnering with local youth groups and organizations and have focused our outreach efforts on family-friendly events in order to begin instilling an appreciation for the human/animal bond at a young age.

For example, as a part of an initiative to better serve Sarasota and its cats, we created a new program for high school students to become more involved in social issues. Students will learn how to collaborate to host a food drive for Cat Depot's Community Food Bank which provides over 1,500 pounds of food to income-qualified cat owners and to many of the area's community cat caregivers each month. This program allows cat owners to provide for their cats and in turn keeps these cats in their loving homes. Our student volunteers will learn the importance of helping people in the community and, as a result, will also help save more cats.

With the restructuring of the volunteer program, longer term volunteers will enjoy new roles and responsibilities to better serve our mission. Volunteers are an integral part of Cat Depot and assist as front desk greeters, ambassadors, adoption assistants, cat caregivers, and outreach event advocates. Volunteers are crucial to our day-to-day operations, fundraising, and awareness in the community and are not only invested in the future of Cat Depot, but also the future of Sarasota County.

Please feel free to contact Jordan Bahr, Volunteer and Education Manager, or Hilarie King, Events and Development Manager, at info@catdepot.org.





— It's Kitten Season —

Help Them
Blossom!



Please Adopt
or Donate
Today.



cat depot.
The Resource for
Rescue, Adoption, and Education

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Marketing Refresh

The dreams and realizations of Cat Depot are growing and getting bolder every year. Our marketing materials will have a brighter, more vibrant look. To start, we are delighted to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website at www.catdepot.org.

We started this project from big ideas -- making our adoptable cats and mission-based programming more visible to providing easily accessible and resourceful feline-related information for the community.

We've also improved the site's navigation, so you'll be able to find what you are looking for quickly and with ease. There are a host of additional changes -- with some surprises intermixed - all to make your experience of visiting our website that much better for you.

In addition, Cat Depot's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts are undergoing a refresh all in an effort to provide you with stories on adoptable cats and kittens, adoption and rescue successes, ways to become more involved, and the most up-to-date information on programming and events.

If you do not already follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram -- we hope you will! You can find us at:



You can also help us spread our message far and wide by either sharing any of our posts or using the following hashtags on your own! Please post your Cat Depot stories and tag us (@CatDepot)! We love following kitties into their next chapter and forever homes.

#catdepotsaveslives

#fortheloveoffelines

#adoptdontshopsarasota

We hope you like the changes, and if you have feedback, please let us know!

Claudia A. Harden, Director of Communications