



cat depot

A Rescue, Adoption, Education and Resource Center



2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234 • info@catdepot.org • www.catdepot.org • 941.366.2404 Issue 10 • Spring 2010

Remember the “Three Amigos,” those wild and crazy guys? Well, these feline “Three Amigos” have since retired from the movie industry and are currently residing at Cat Depot. The product of a feral mother, Dusty, Ned and Lucky were discovered in an affluent area (The Landings) of Sarasota, Florida. Because their mom was feral, the three amigos were literally wild party animals when they arrived at



Cat Depot at the age of five months. They needed lots of one-on-one attention to socialize them, and they came to the right place. Thanks to our new director, our on-site cat whisperer and many other kind folks who gave this trio lots of love and attention, these youngsters warm up to visitors after a little introduction.

Because of their

exceptionally long, graceful legs, these silver tabbies have been described as “little fawns,” with personalities to match.

But Dusty, Ned and Lucky are now three years old and have resided at the Cat Depot Ponderosa much too long. They need the care and love that only a forever home can give them. Since all of the cats we have featured on the front page of our newsletters have been adopted, we decided to promote this adorable threesome. These handsome cowboys are depending on kindhearted, compassionate people like you to adopt one more family member (or maybe two or three!).

To truly blossom, rescued felines like this engaging trio often need the one-on-one attention that only a home environment can provide. Are you that special someone who has the patience, dedication and time that these “little fawns” need?

These three amigos are anxious to climb into the saddle and enjoy a Florida sunset with you, while keeping a lookout for any uninvited wildlife in your lanai. They might also delight in curling up with you, with popcorn and treats, to watch Bonanza or a Wild West movie.

Support Our Mission • Give the Gift of Membership!



Dot Cat Reports: Cat Depot Grand Opening January 15 - 17, 2010

Press Release: Mewsweek, Washington Scratching Post, The Miami Herald, Catsumer Reports, Chatcago Tribune.

It's amazing how resourceful and successful humans can be when they work together, in packs, to better the animal community. Yes, on January 15th, Cat Depot, one of the largest no-kill feline rescue, adoption, education and resource centers in the country celebrated their Grand Opening. Moving from 2400 square feet to 10,000 has provided significant benefits to both humans and cats, giving Cat Depot a lot of "wows to meow" about!

After an official human "ribbon cutting" ceremony by Sarasota & Manatee Chamber of Commerce (where do they get those cool, big scissors?), and pictures of all the wonderful folks who made this move possible, the party began... and what a bash it was!

For two and a half days, approximately 1000 humans, curious as cats, flocked into Cat Depot's amazing new facility. Our new Welcome Center that displays the artwork of local artisans and many feline gift items generated \$1500 in sales. Add to that - raffle ticket proceeds of \$877.00, Wheel of Furtune spins totaling \$596.00, and memberships and donations raising \$935.00 and it was cause for celebration. The 17 cats and kittens who found forever homes reported a lottery day! And, this is just the beginning!

Cat Depot salutes and gives a heartfelt thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers who assisted in giving tours, directing parking, distributing invitations, face painting, serving food and all the seemingly endless fund-raising activities, including re-gifting of items for our raffle and wheel. We couldn't have done it without you!

Applause to our generous sponsors and donors:

ACE Pet Resort, Animals by Nature, Bogati Urn Company, Charles Carson, Erin and Caitlyn Colleran, Valerie Colleran, Cupcakes a Go-Go, Doggie Diva of WTMV radio, Dr. Nina's Animal Hospital, Full Swing Productions, Hide-Away Storage, Jersey Mike's Subs, Kitty Palm, Pet Doors USA, SAGE Art, Inc., Tiger Lily Flowers, Sam's Auto Repair, Kevin Roberts, Trinity Graphics, and WSRQ.

As a senior feline ghost writer for this newsletter, Cat Depot's Grand Opening is a monumental step for rescued animals everywhere. My feline friends hope it will become a humane model for shelters nationwide. Cat Depot has always respected the rights of homeless cats in our communities and they continue to listen and respond to their needs. Finally, their message is being heard, loud and clear...

Dot Cat
Feline Roving Reporter



L to R: Garo Partoyan, Bev Meadows, Ken Slavin, Linda Slavin, Shelley Thayer, Marilyn Warner and Lynn Rasys



Susan Marie, Doggie Diva of WTMV radio, talks with Sarasota Veterinarian, Dr. Nina.



Sherree and Larry Weisenberger



Back L-R: Shelley Thayer, Gail Hall, Front L-R: Mellonie Smicklas, Brinton Smith



Charles Carson prepares the banquet



"Shopping is Fun!"



"Wheel of Fortune"



L-R: Christina Bretoi, Elena Bretoi and Hannah Wharton

Cat'sino Nautical Night

What could be better than watching the sun set over a marina, sipping a cocktail with friends on a warm Florida evening, watching boats bob up and down with the passing of a wake, and listening to calypso music while looking at adorable cat photos? If you answered attending Cat Depot's annual fundraiser, Cat'sino Nautical Night, at the new Sarasota Yacht Club, you are correct!

Thanks to Bev Meadows and Garo Partoyan, co-chairs of the event and members of the Sarasota Yacht Club, Cat Depot, in their annual effort to "feed the kitty," held their fourth casino event on Saturday, March 20, 2010.

Surrounded by marble floors, contemporary glass chandeliers, and dark wood accents, Cat Depot's beautifully decorated silent-auction tables lined the entrance of the 23,000 square foot clubhouse with 90 donated gift items. By evening's end, all of the silent-auction items were sold to many happy recipients.

An open bar, at either end of the clubhouse, along with the rhythm of steel drums, drew guests into four enormous rooms, all providing a panoramic view of the club's marina. After sampling a variety of delectable food at the buffet, guests moved to the casino tables where they had fun playing blackjack, roulette and craps.

At the end of the evening, casino winnings were cashed in for raffle tickets used to win beautifully wrapped prizes valued at \$200 and up. The lucky winners took home baskets with overdoses of chocolate, liquor, health and beauty items, and for someone electronically inclined, an iPod Touch.

As the event came to a close, a brief film was shown containing interviews with volunteers, staff members and founders of Cat Depot. It was a reminder to all guests that their support is needed not just one day a year, but all 365 days.

Special Thanks To:

Platinum Sponsors: Jack & Thelma Urfer – The Wilma Fund

Gold Sponsors: Goldman Sachs - U.S. Trust – Livingston, Patterson, Strickland, Siegel, PA

Silver Sponsors: Stephen Romero, DVM – Heidi Ward, DVM – Garo Partoyan – Mellonie Smicklas & Brinton Smith – The Schimberg Group, Beyond Design Construction - Opera for Animals (OASIS)

Table Sponsors: Opera for Animals (OASIS) – Anne Chauvet, DVM – Sarasota Ford

See www.catdepot.org for all our generous silent auction items and pictures of our Grand Opening and Cat'sino Nautical Night.



Co-chairs Garo Partoyan and Bev Meadows



Thelma and Jack Urfer



June Bowers and a guest



Co-founders Linda and Ken Slavin with (left) Elise Mathis and (third from left) Madeline Young



Carol Sparrow and Randy Locke



Kent and Diana Mitchell and Don and Joan Sutherland



Erin and Caithyn Collieran



Entrance to the Sarasota Yacht Club



Guests playing craps



Emcee: Kathy Schille, WSRQ radio



Raffle Prize



Hi, I am Lynn Rasys and I just joined the Cat Depot staff as the new

THE INSIDE SCOOP

volunteer and project manager.



Lynn Rasys, Volunteer and Project Manager

Recently, I was director of client services providing marketing, training and website administration for Geomex

SE/IFoodToGo, which specializes

in restaurant online take-out and delivery systems. Before that, I spent five years in the nonprofit area of business as executive director for the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® covering a six-county area providing research, education, screening and treatment for the underserved. The multimillion-dollar affiliate's signature event was the annual Komen Race for the Cure.

My love of cats took me to Cat Depot and I am so excited to work each day with 150 cats and kittens. It took a while, but now I realize I cannot personally take all of them home! In my family, we are avid cat lovers, with four adopted cats of our own. The true reward at the end of each day at Cat Depot is to see the cats going out the front door to happy and loving homes.

So far, 2010 has been an exciting year, and there is a lot more to come. Follow us on Facebook so you don't miss weekly updates, adoption features and breaking news.

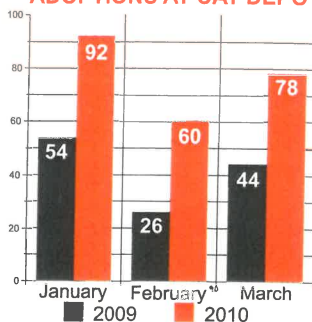
Community Service Hours

Cat Depot is offering community service hours to our local high school students (age 16-18) who need to meet their graduation service requirements.

Off-the-Chart Efforts in 2010!

Cat Depot is celebrating a long list of "firsts" this year and we are just getting started! In **January**, we found homes for **92 cats and kittens**, the largest number adopted in one month. In **February** we doubled our adoptions from the previous year. 60 homeless cats found families to call their own.

ADOPTIONS AT CAT DEPOT



We conducted three off-site events and developed an education day for over a dozen groups and families (ranging in age from three to "who's counting?"). Our veterinarian spayed and neutered 68 cats, conducted two emergency surgeries, and provided dentals for those in need. Our vet techs trimmed 128 sets of nails and cleaned 72 sets of ears. Who says "Spa Day" doesn't exist at Cat Depot?

New!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteer training classes are offered throughout the year. For a complete schedule, visit www.catdepot.org or call or email Lynn Rasys at lynnr@catdepot.org

Volunteer Positions

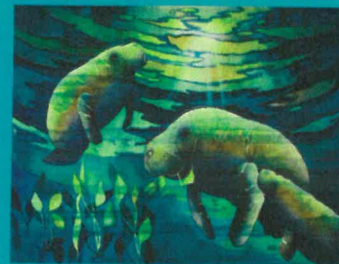
- Assistant Vet Tech
- Welcome Center/Gift Shop
- Phones Only
- Canister Program
- Cleaning
- Adoptions Training
- Tour Guides
- Volunteer Coordinators



Volunteer Lucinda Chastain helps out in the gift shop

Our Gift Shop is the Cat's Meow

Shop until you drop! Remember your mom on Mother's Day and create a special gift bag just for her.



Manatees by Marie Poulin



"Neuter Who?!" by Nancy Colby

Art Gallery

Twenty percent of all proceeds from art sales benefit the cats and kittens. Featured artists are Nancy Colby and Marie Poulin.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE GIFT SHOP ARE USED TO FEED AND CARE FOR THE CATS.

Choosing a Cat Who Is Right for You

When selecting a new family member, many considerations may come to mind. Some individuals make their selection according to age, hair length, color or even breed. Others let the cat choose them.



Persian: Jasmine

Age. Kittens are for the brave. They scamper and play, and may startle you as they climb up your leg. Kittens bring laughter and joy, but like small children, they must be protected. Daily stimulation and

loving handling are critical to raising a well-adjusted cat. If you like an active household and have time to nurture, a kitten may be right for you.

An older cat may be less demanding of both your time and energy and make a wonderful companion. But even older cats need daily activity and love.



Ocicat:

Simba

Color. Cats come in a multitude of colors and patterns; since the 1800s, studies have tried to link color with a cat's personality. Torti's are often labeled as having "tortitude" and calicos are said to be loving with a touch of sass. White cats are distinguished as good mousers and tabbies are notably mellow and noble. Red cats are sweet yet spirited, tuxedos charming with a tendency to roam, and gray and black cats sophisticated and friendly.



Manx:

Phinneas

However, none of these claims have been substantiated.

Breeds. Genetics does come into play regarding personality traits. The domestic short- or long-hair cat will have a mix of distinguishable and loveable personality

traits that can make up the perfect feline companion for you. Or, if you prefer a specific breed, Cat Fanciers' Association describes the following traits:

- 🐾Bombay Affectionate, social, inquisitive
- 🐾Maine Coon Good with children and dogs
- 🐾Manx Playful, likes to bond
- 🐾Ocicat Dog-like, easily trained
- 🐾Persian Sweet and gentle
- 🐾Rag Doll Laid back, likes people
- 🐾Russian Blue Gentle and affectionate
- 🐾Siamese Intelligent, inquisitive, loving

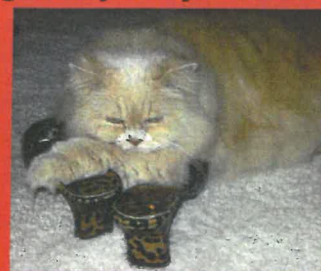
Cat Depot rescues cats every day. Cats belonging to the breeds listed above are currently awaiting adoption at our center or have been adopted within the last three months. So, whether you are looking for a non-pedigreed cat or a specific breed, you are sure to find your next best friend at Cat Depot.



Siamese:

Simon

Adopting a Shy Kitty: Tallulah's Story



Tallulah in her favorite pair of boots!

I am now called Lulu, but my full name is Tallulah. I am a Cream Persian and nearly eight years old.

The first few years of my life were difficult. I was abandoned and lived in the wild.

I was captured and brought to Cat Depot, where the people were very kind. During my stay, I was adopted twice! The first time I went with a single lady but I hid behind the furniture, so she took me back. After a while, I was adopted by a family with children and two parrots. Again, I hid and was returned.

Then Susie came to visit and found me. Bravery has never run in my family so when Susie and Andrew took me to their home, I refused to come out of the carrier. They tried to coax me out, but I wouldn't budge. Fortunately, they did not force me, and eventually they went to bed. When the house was dark, I crept out of the carrier and found food and water, with a litter box nearby. I explored everywhere during the night and when I heard them moving about at daybreak, I hid. When Susie found me, she talked softly to me, which I liked. And I was happy that she didn't make me move from my hiding spot.

During the second night, I explored the house again, and the next day Susie sat quietly with me. She told me how beautiful I was and how glad she was to have found me.

One night, I jumped up onto the bed and curled up on Susie's pillow. I purred very loudly, but I couldn't help myself. I was so happy.

That was two wonderful years ago. I have gained so much confidence that I even walk up to visitors and let them pet me. Life is fun with Susie and Andrew, who have taught me to play with toys and run after a ball. Patience is all I needed to be the happiest cat in the world.

Susie Jackson Batty is an author. You can visit her website at www.susiejacksonbatty.com.



A "Tail" of Two Kitties...Jethro & Jaden


Help us with our mission to feed our cats for 6 months.

That's **6382** cans of Friskies - any flavor!

I love Chicken, I love Liver

I wish Friskies would deliver!

YUM! YUM!



Friskies Meter

6382	5882
5382	4882
4382	3882
3382	2882
2382	1882
1382	882
382	

The "Tribble Effect"

Humans are into warm and fuzzy things; large heads and big eyes are an irresistible combination. Relative to the size of their bodies, cats have the largest eyes of any mammal species. Designed to help them spot their prey in the dark, cats' eyes can hone in on everything from mice to the toes of sleeping humans. Dogs have perfected the sappy look, those mournful, guilt-inducing stares. For both dogs and cats, this strategy of "looking cute" is so effective that the number of family dogs and cats has exploded, while their wild cousins, wolves and cougars, have been threatened with extinction.

In the 60s, the world envisioned by Gene Roddenberry brought about the Star Trek television show in which we humans, come to our senses. Life aboard the starship Enterprise is a civilized one: differences are resolved constructively, no animals are consumed and the idea of experimenting on animals for the benefit of humans never occurs to anyone. What a great premise for a TV series!

One of the early episodes, called "The Trouble with Tribbles," featured cute little alien fur-balls called tribbles. The trouble was that the Enterprise was overrun with these adorable critters because they were born pregnant! In the 60s, spay and neuter was not in the public consciousness, so the overpopulation problem was solved by "beaming" the tribbles onto hostile Klingon ships. Some scientists suggest that we are genetically hardwired to respond to the "tribble effect," the lure of cuteness, which bypasses our rational minds and cues a basic instinct to protect our pets. Of course, we like to think this behavior is a result of unconditional love rather than genetic predisposition.

However, it doesn't really matter because having pets is a "survival strategy" for us. Studies have shown that keeping and loving pets boosts our immune system, increases longevity and generally brings us happiness. In exchange for taking care of animals, they in turn take care of us, health wise.

If we're kind to animals because it is good for us, then unkindness and cruelty to animals is unnatural. Euthanizing pets as a means of controlling overpopulation, the biggest problem facing shelters in this country, simply violates something deep inside all of us.

Although tribbles don't actually exist, we have our pick of millions of adorable tribble-like creatures. So please remember to spay and neuter your "tribbles" and consider adopting one from Cat Depot today.

Tours and Group Visits

February brought in special tours and volunteer groups from the community, including Freedom Village, Temple Sinai, Tiger Cubs, Sarasota High School Lady Sailors Circus Club and a kindergarten class field trip. We welcome any group and can customize your visit.

Partnerships

If you have a business that is interested in partnering with Cat Depot, or if you would like to hold an event to benefit the adoption center, please call us.



Cat Depot was voted the Best Animal Organization and Best Rescue Group in a public poll conducted by Sarasota Pet Magazine.

Newsletter Contributors:

Editors: Linda Slavin & Shelley Thayer,
Guest Columnist: Susie Jackson
Batty, Photography: Marilyn Warner,
Evelyn England & Andy Croatman
Layout & Design: Fran Topp



Kids for Kats

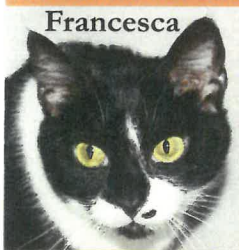
There are no age boundaries when it comes to selfless acts of kindness.

Kelsey Van Praag, age 14, rounded up thousands of pounds of cat food as well as support for Cat Depot when she notified her 1000 facebook fans about her beach bash/food drive to help the animals.

High school students, **Erin and Caitlyn Colleran** donned elaborate costumes from "Cats" and raised \$1,200 for homeless cats and kittens.

Hannah Wharton, age 7, raised over \$200 and lots of goodies when she asked her birthday attendees to help the cats and forgo the birthday present.

And, 11 year old **Christina Bretoi**, after weeks of reading to Francesca, a very timid cat in the "staff only" cat suite, helped Francesca overcome her fears and



Francesca move into a suite with confident cats. The power of these and other youth is limitless and hopefully. . .contagious! Thank you, all.



Batman whispers to "Cat Tester", Beignet that she will always be first with Cat Depot! Beignet came in second in Sarasota Magazine's poll for Best Pet in Sarasota.

Guardian Angels Needed

Cat Depot needs funds and fosters to help care for these loving and deserving cats. Your donations will help with needed operations, medicine and daily care. Won't you please open your heart and home to one of these deserving felines?

For more information about donations or how to become a foster parent, please contact Cat Depot at info@catdepot.org or call 941.366.2404. Thank you.

CINDY



Cindy is a sweetheart even though she is plagued with painful ear infections. She needs two inner-ear ablations (removal of the inner ear), which will leave her deaf. This procedure costs about \$1800. Cindy is seeking a very special Guardian Angel to pay for her operation and a home to call her own.

HECTOR



Hector, a gentle, diabetic cat is looking for a Guardian Angel to help pay for his daily insulin and special food. He is in a foster home at present doing very well but, Cat Depot is still paying for his medication.

BUSTER



Everybody loves Buster. Currently living in a foster home, Buster has chronic upper respiratory problems and requires daily shots and periodic antibiotics. He is a very loving cat who is without pet insurance and hopes that a Guardian Angel will help pay his expenses.

PRIZZY



Prizzy is an adorable, playful girl who has Interstitial Cystitis which causes painful bladder syndrome. She is in a foster home where she receives special food which is very costly. She may need to be on additional medication in the near future.

MAX & ARTIE



Max



Artie

Artie, age 11, and Max, age 12, are both loving and affectionate boys who yearn for a home to call their own. Though not life threatening, they are plagued with chronic bowel problems. Will you give them a home?

Update: Rory and Dexter Find Homes!



Rory happy and quiet at last!

Rory, "the talking cat" featured in our last newsletter, has found a loving home. His new person says, "He's the best cat ever." Dexter is also living the good life with his new family. Thank you all for giving these two boys a place to call home.



Dexter relaxing at home.

"Fabio"
cat depot



If you are seeking a soul mate who enjoys moon lit nights,

is an excellent listener, has walked on the wild side, and hangs on your every word with baited (shrimp cocktail) breath, than Fabio is your guy. Like the blonde, Italian stallion model with whom he shares the same name, Fabio has a soft, orange mane, is very calm, cool and collected, and is looking for a human with a slow hand, and a (soft-as-butter) heart of gold.



cat depot

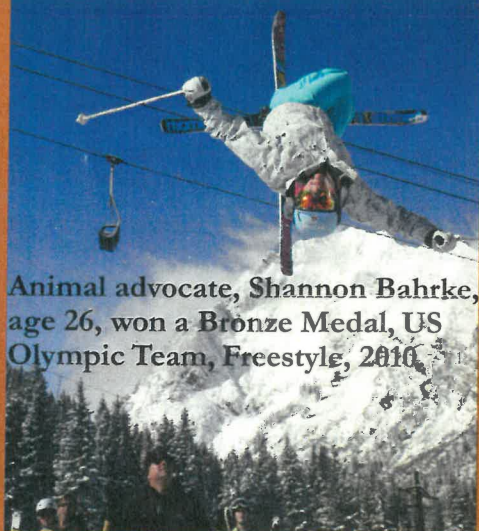
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Cat Depot is greatly in need of cash donations to feed and care for the cats!

Since our move to the new facility, we have doubled our adoption numbers, which enables us to rescue and care for more cats and kittens. However, it has also doubled our costs. Your financial support is greatly needed. Please help us with our mission to save lives by making a cash donation or becoming a member today.

"Best Wishes to Cat Depot, I know you will be flying high and having a Gold Medal year!!"
- Shannon Bahrke



Animal advocate, Shannon Bahrke, age 26, won a Bronze Medal, US Olympic Team, Freestyle, 2010.

Saving the 10th Life Cats

According to NBC 2 News investigators, The 10th Life Cats were "one of the largest cat rescues in U.S. history". Nearly 600 cats resided in Clewiston, Florida, at a nonprofit organization, that was hidden from the public.

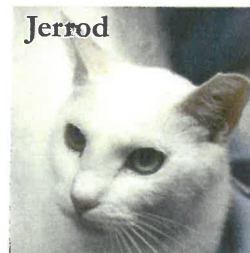
Cat Depot received calls for help from Best Friends Animal Society, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, and the DART Team in Tampa Bay, Florida.

"We had a full house, but how could we refuse?" said Cat Depot executive director Shelley Thayer. "Quickly, our climate-controlled storage facility turned into a rescue operation for 24 cats."

Of the 595 cats found, 410 were saved. The 10th Life Animal Sanctuary is currently under investigation for cruelty to animals.

Please come visit our survivors. You may just fall in love.

Jerrod



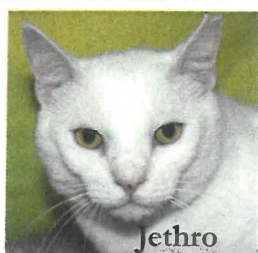
Jaden



Kashmir



Jerico



Jethro



Jude



Kacie

Your donation is urgently needed and greatly appreciated!