



# cat depot<sup>®</sup> connection

Rescue • Adoption • Education • Resource Center

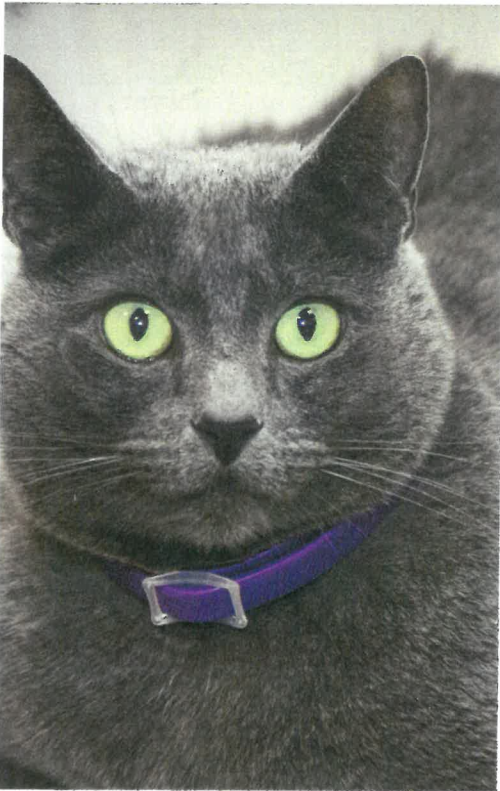
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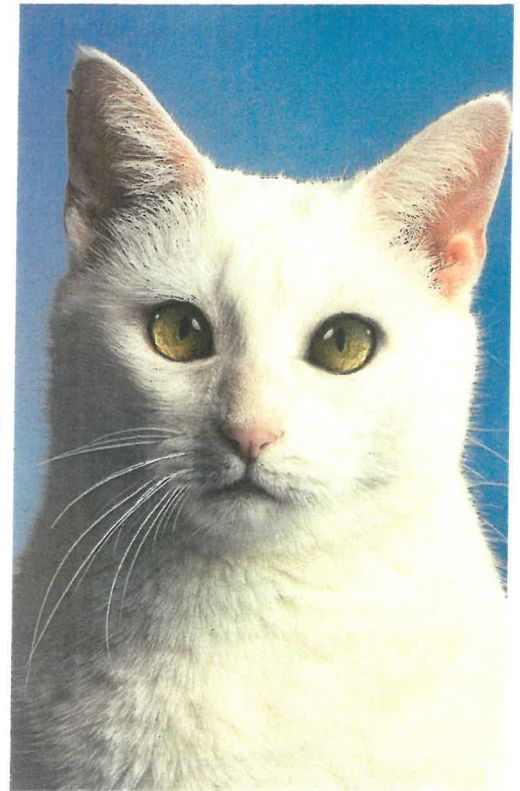
• [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org)

• 941.366.2404

• Issue 17

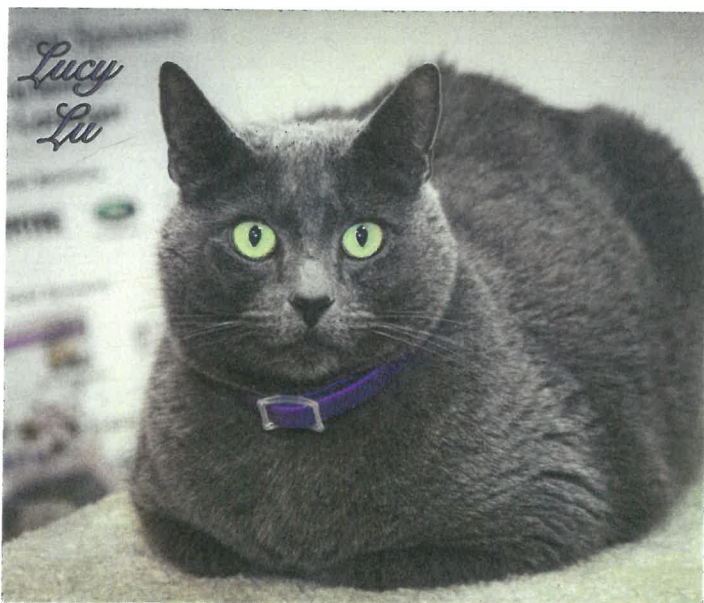


It's all about  
CATS!





If you look into my eyes, I am certain you can still see my fear. Not of you, but from a past filled with unspeakable acts by humans without hearts. I still have nightmares about being chased, bullied, and stoned by a gang of terrible teenagers. But a kind, intuitive animal communicator helped me work through some of the abuse I encountered as an abandoned, front-paw declawed kitten. I learned early on that not everyone is kind when you are trying to survive.



Upon my arrival at Cat Depot, I was frightened by everyone and everything so I shared an office with several very kind staff members. Their patience and understanding helped me through some dark hours. And the simple herbal "calming" collar I wear helps to ease my anxiety. What a concept!

But best of all, was a six-month retreat in a real home! They showed me how deserving I truly am. To minimize my learning curve, my amazing foster mom wrote up a how-to-successfully-assist little old me with adapting in a home environment.

I've learned, like cats, humans come in different shapes, sizes, and temperaments. Who would know that in the end, the kind and compassionate ones saved my life?

My name is Lucy Lu. I am a beautiful Russian Blue, and I am back!



When we celebrated our 10 year anniversary, it was all about cats! The Forget Me Not Gala, presented by Warren Loranger, was held on February 9 at the beautiful Laurel Oak Country Club with a sold-out crowd of 300 attendees. Twenty veterinarians were honored for their lifesaving support of ill and injured cats. Entertainment was provided by singing prodigy Maria Wirries and standup comedian Tim Wilkins.

Hundreds of businesses and individuals gave generously towards the live and silent auctions, and at the end of the night a final appeal raised an additional \$15,000. Special thanks to our lifesaving sponsors who gave a whopping \$70,000, which brought our grand total to \$100,000. It was a milestone event for Cat Depot and homeless cats.

To see the entire list of our charitable sponsors, go to [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org) and click on events.

### Improved Technology

You will love the **Litter Lifter**! We have all purchased numerous litter scoops, hoping for the best solution to a quick clean up. Now it's here, and worth buying one more scoop. With the litter lifter's raking action there



is no shaking, no sifting, and less dust. It's the best scoop yet.

The **Ultimate Litterbox** has a new modern shape, large over-sized rim for easy handling and new ramped sides for

handy litter removal. Traditional boxes are too low. They cramp kitties urge to dig and scatter litter over the sides.

The Litter Lifter and Ultimate Litterbox are sold at Cat Depot's Store.

## DOT CAT 36-Hour Giving Challenge Marshmallow



The online giving challenge was sponsored by five generous foundations. Nearly 300 local nonprofit organizations vied for matching funds and bonus dollars.

At 7 a.m., 18 volunteers and staff feverishly entered donations online. Relentless efforts continued into the night and did not stop until one minute after 7 p.m., 36 hours later. When the dust settled and announcements were made, even the most reserved were rejoicing!

Cat Depot won second place in the Large Nonprofit category for a bonus of \$15,000.

Total online donations:	\$48,080
Total offline donations:	\$4,630
2nd Place Award:	\$15,000
(for the highest number of unique donors)	
Hourly Bonus:	\$250
Night Owl Bonus:	\$2,000
First 50 / \$50 Bonus:	\$1,000
Matching funds:	\$9,250
Total Funds Raised	\$80,210

2012: Donations from 23 states and 3 countries

2013: Donations from 30 states and 6 countries

Will the 36-Hour Giving Challenge happen again?

Yes! Mark your calendars for May 2014. **Dot Cat**

### The Best of the Best!

Does your kitty experience separation anxiety, excessive meowing, destructive or aggressive behavior, or inappropriate marking? **Sentry's Good Behavior Cat Collars** may be the solution. The collar mimics the pheromone that the mother produces to help calm and reassure kitty through natural lavender and chamomile scents.

We've had great results at Cat Depot.

Need help with urine marking or scratching?

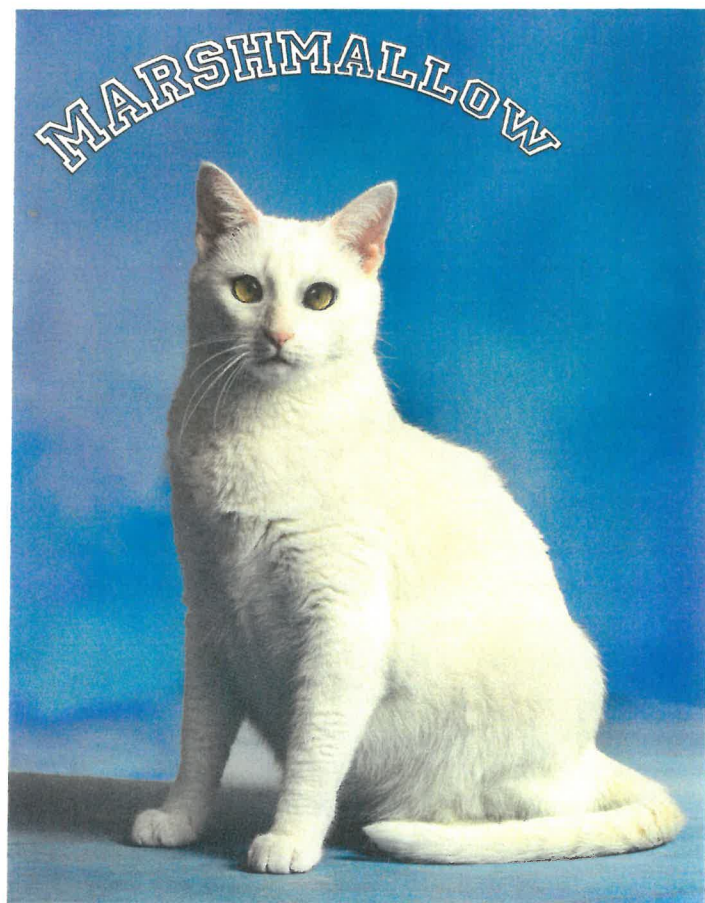
**Comfort Zone with Feliway** was proven to be 95% effective in reducing urine marking after 28 days. It increased the number of cats that stopped vertical scratching after 7 days. Both products are sold in Cat Depot's Store.



Hi,

My name is Marshmallow, and I am a sweet, young, pure-white female who is desperately seeking a new status. They say I am a high energy kitty, very smart, and exceptionally curious. I like spaces that I can explore, and I especially like lots of fun and activity.

I was adopted from Cat Depot as a kitten. But before I had time to even explore my new abode, another kitten was brought into my home, and I was locked outside and neglected. A neighbor took pity on me and returned me to Cat Depot.



Reluctantly, I just came back from a spring break with a foster family. I investigated their house (several times over), loved all the attention and interaction with family members, and I graduated with honors! They noted that I knew the word "no". The very first night, I slept between them in their bed. It was the highlight of my life sharing their warmth, vitality, and love.

If only I could repeat that in a home of my own.

Much Love,  
Marshmallow



I guess you could say I came from a broken home. I was out on the streets living alone, and I was way too young. So, it was no big surprise when I learned I was pregnant with four little ones. Not an easy task to raise kids on the street. Keeping them safe and finding food was not only frightening but exhausting. Some days, I didn't think we would make it, like the day a loose dog came sniffing around. But that dog turned out to be our lottery ticket. When the dog's person came searching for him, he found us!



We all traveled to Cat Depot, and it wasn't long before my kittens were adopted. They sure grow up fast. It was hard to see my babies go, and I guess I still have empty nest syndrome.

I'm described as a brown tabby with a sweet disposition, slender build, and beautiful markings. I'm easy to get along with, and my gratitude runs deep. If you look into my big green eyes, you may even see my longing for a real home with the right kind of love.

## It's Kitten Season!

More than 400 kittens will come through our doors this year. We need foster parents to help moms with kittens, orphaned kittens and bottle babies. Feeding bottles and KMR milk replacement formula are needed along with kitten, ferret or rabbit cages. Snickers, available for adoption



## THE INSIDE SCOOP

Older pets need regular veterinary care to prevent disease and to diagnose it early. Cats now live an average of 16 years, and it is not uncommon to see cats 18 to 20 years of age. The indoor pet, being well nourished, vaccinated against infectious diseases, and protected from accidents, fares the best.

Of greatest importance is the care the cat has received throughout his life. When sickness, illness, or injury is neglected, the aging process is accelerated.



Dr. Gilberto Corona, DVM

## Danger Signs in the Geriatric Cat

If you see any of the following signs, take your cat to the veterinarian.

- Loss of appetite or weight
- Coughing, shortness of breath, or rapid breathing
- Weakness or difficulty moving
- Increased thirst or frequency of urination
- Constipation or diarrhea
- A growth or lump
- Unexplained change in behavior



Parkway Animal Hospital, 941.351.8888

Conditions that affect older cats can often be controlled. The key to making sure your senior cat has the healthiest quality of

life possible, is to recognize health risks and detect disease early.



## Cat Depot Emergency Response Team

Cat Depot has assisted with disaster efforts from as early as 2004, with the acceptance of cats displaced by Hurricane Charlie. It was not until 2009, however, that Cat Depot took on a more serious role in the rescue of nearly 600 cats in Clewiston, Florida. Shortly thereafter, Cat Depot helped with nearly 400 cats confiscated in Pennsylvania.

In 2011, Cat Depot was host to a Florida State Animal Response Coalition training, and 70% of staff and numerous volunteers were certified for national disaster deployment. Within weeks, CDERT was born. In the months that followed, Cat Depot signed a partnership agreement with the ASPCA and deployed our first emergency response team to Joplin, Missouri. The next year Cat Depot played a larger role with the rescue of 700 cats from Caboodle Ranch in Madison County, Florida. The end result was the acceptance and adoption of 150 rescued cats.



Cat Depot Rescue Van and Trailer

In 2013, in conjunction with a grant from the ASPCA, Cat Depot has outfitted its first rescue trailer and van. Should disaster strike, Cat Depot stands ready.

2004: Hurricane Charlie, Port Charlotte, Florida

2005: Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana

2009: 10th Life Sanctuary, Clewiston, Florida

2010: Animal Friends of Elk & Cameron County,  
Pennsylvania

2011: Bradenton, Florida • Joplin, Missouri •

Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba

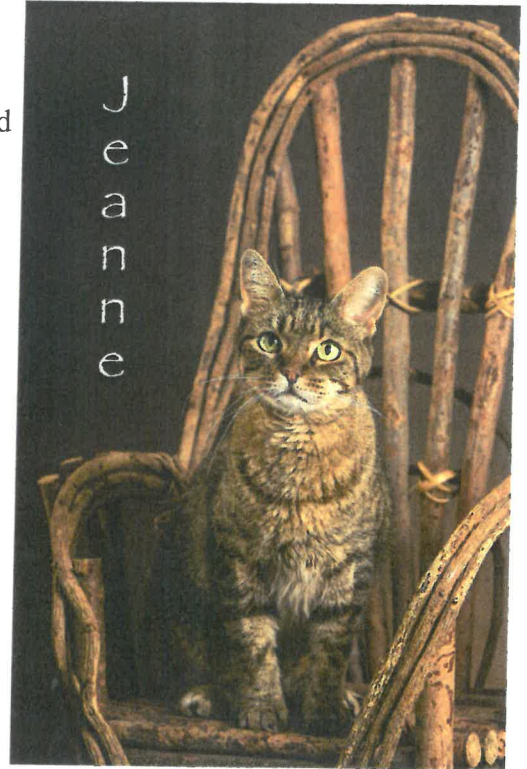
2012: Sarasota, Florida • Caboodle Ranch, Madison  
County, Florida

For seven years, I had a wonderful home with my mom, Flo. She was older and had some medical problems, but my job was to love her and I did with all my heart. She called me her “Jeannie with the light brown hair.” Every evening I would snuggle in her lap on the lanai, watch the sunset and we’d both make a wish. Mine was that our Zen moment together would last forever.

I admit that I am careless with my toys. One night, Flo stumbled on one and fell. In a desperate effort to help, I meowed as loudly as possible, which awoke our neighbor who called for help. As Flo

was transferred to an ambulance, her only request was that her friend find me a good home. My heart broke that night as the love of my life disappeared forever.

I know that visitors can sense my sadness, and I wish they knew how much I long for a special someone. Until then, you can find me lounging on the lanai, watching the sunset. I am a sweet brown tabby named Jeanne who can make all your dreams come true.



Cat Depot Rescue Trailer Interior



## Help Support Cat Depot

### Paw It Forward All Year Long

During our 10 year anniversary, you can honor a friend, family member or cat, or celebrate a birthday, graduation, or memory of a loved one by purchasing a paw. Your message will adorn our walls for everyone to see. Best of all, your paw will help with daily expenses of food and medication for cats on the mend or waiting for adoption. Express your love by supporting a life.

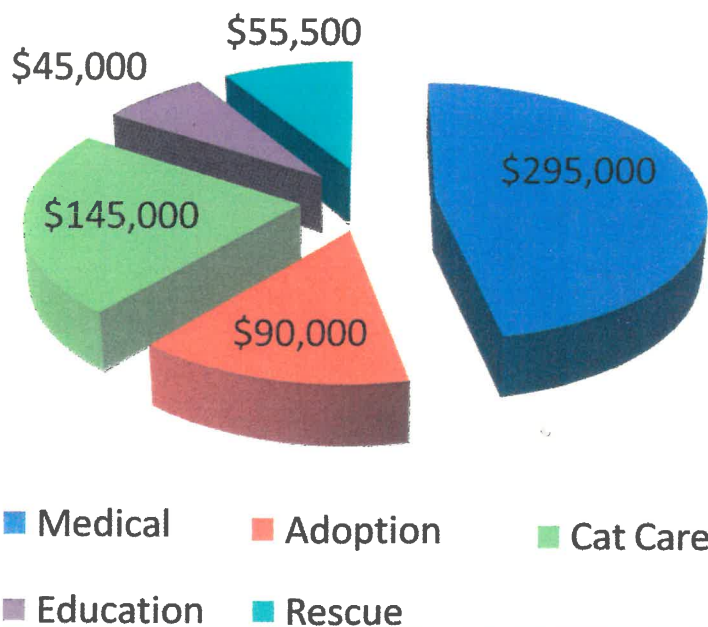


Call 941.366.2404 to order your paw, or go to our website's homepage at [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org)

### Your Dollars at Work

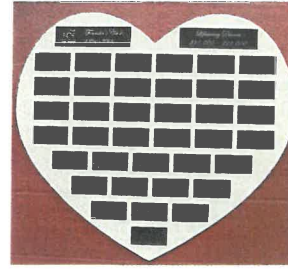
Thanks to the generosity of our compassionate donors, Cat Depot was able to fulfill its mission of rescue, adoption, education, and resource in 2012.

### 2012 Cat Depot Programs



## Hearts in Your Honor

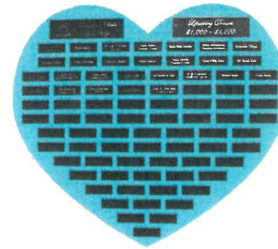
Animal friends who donate \$500 or more during a year will find their name on one of the affixed hearts located on our adoption floor. Your donation is gratefully received and permanently etched in our hearts.



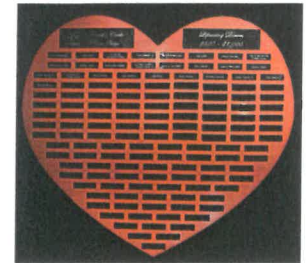
\$15,000-\$25,000



\$5,000-\$14,999



\$1,000-\$4,999



\$500-\$999

Friend's Circle  
Founder's Circle

Five Year Pledge of \$500 to \$999  
Five Year Pledge of \$1,000 or more

To donate call Shelley Thayer at 941.366.2404

### Looking forward - Goals in 2013

Cat Depot's unwavering commitment to helping homeless, abandoned, and injured animals continues in 2013.

#### Our goals:

- Find homes for 1,000 cats and kittens
- Provide 1,000 lbs of dry food for community cats every month
- Work with local Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) groups to take their feral kittens and transform them to adoptable cats
- Increase Critter Camp from two weeks to four weeks, and broaden age range to include 6th and 7th grades
- Provide Girls Inc. with five individual days of free camp
- Continue partnership with the ASPCA for disaster work in Florida and the U.S.
- Increase grant funds for Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) of all community cats registered in Cat Depot Community Cat Program (993 cats)