

Cat Depot's mission is to save lives, find loving homes, and provide resources and education to improve the destiny of homeless cats.

## It Takes a Village

To Our Cat Depot Village:



We are pleased and grateful to all who donated to Cat Depot during the Community Foundation of Sarasota County's Giving Challenge in March. Your donations, matched by The Patterson Foundation, provided over \$200,000 for our shelter to continue its mission of providing comfort, care, and homes for cats. Those total dollars placed us number 5 highest out of more than 650 organizations, and first among animal-related charities for funds raised! Truly, a remarkable achievement.

To all of our supporters, we say "Thank you." We need each and every one of you. Thank you also to our staff and volunteers for getting the word out about the Giving Challenge, and for making it such a success. It was a great effort by many who participated on behalf of Cat Depot. We are very proud of our Village, and humbled by its response.

**Bev Meadows & Garo Partoyan**  
*Two of Cat Depot's Co-Founders*



Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

*Thank you for being the ones to make kindness matter!*

# Cat Depot Connection

Summer 2020



KITTEN SEASON  
**2020**

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# REMEMBER TO SPAY & NEUTER YOUR CATS

This chart represents one unspayed female, her mate and all of her offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter



# IT'S KITTEN SEASON!

## Are You Kitten Me?

Every year, from March to November, a phenomenon known as “Kitten Season” occurs. It sounds like a magical time of year and it is filled with an over-abundance of cuteness and warm plump bellies that roll and tumble together until they tire and playtime ceases. For Floridians, “kitten season” extends longer for us due to our temperate climate. But for animal welfare organizations that must cope with the tremendous overload of caring for these orphaned kittens, it marks the unofficial name for cat mating season.

Every three weeks, as the warm weather filters in, feral mothers go into heat and have 2-3 litters a year (averaging 4-6 offspring per litter) and can therefore produce as many as 18 kittens in a year. In seven years, an unaltered female can give birth to close to 400,000 kittens! That's a heck of a lot of cuteness but proof of much needed spays/neuters and Trap-Neuter-Return to curb population growth for feral mothers. During the average 7-day period when cats are in heat, felines can have encounters with multiple males - meaning they can give birth to kittens with different fathers all at one time.

Pet overpopulation is a tremendous problem and many cats without homes in the United States are still euthanized. A *USA Today* article (May 7, 2013) cites that pets who live in states with the highest rates of spaying/neutering live the longest. Altered felines become calmer and more affectionate. Sterilization can also reduce the risk of uterine cancer for females and prostate cancer for males.

“Kitten Season” is a phenomenon we all share in with regard to our Community Cats. This means your donations are much needed and appreciated. On average, it costs \$150 to provide each kitten admitted into Cat Depot with medical care and get them ready for adoption (i.e. vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchip, etc.)! This makes recurring donations critical to saving as many little lives as we can. To become a monthly donor, please visit [catdepot.org](http://catdepot.org). We are all in this together... Thank you for your caring and kindness!

By Linda Slavin

Photography:  
Mathew Harlan

# “What greater gift than the love of a cat?”

– Charles Dickens

## Hurricane Feline Evacuation Kit

This year, due to the pandemic, preparing for a hurricane is even more challenging and making an advance evacuation plan for you and your pet is essential. Our furry friends are always a source of unconditional love during a disaster. What's good for you is good for your pet! Never abandon a pet as they may become lost, injured, or worse.

If you are able to safely stay at home, do so and purchase any needed supplies well in advance. Tune into the National Hurricane Service ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)) and make sure to bring in any pets prior to a disaster. A shelter should be your pet's last, not first, option. However, should you and your family need to evacuate to a local hurricane shelter, you must call ahead to determine if they are pet-friendly and designated for cats.

Whether you remain in your home or evacuate, you will need a feline emergency kit that includes at least 2 weeks of food, water and any current and future medication needs. Be sure your cat is microchipped, you have proof of ownership/adoption, up-to-date proof of vaccinations and rabies shot, most recent FeLV/FIV test result, a one-month supply of flea preventative, and your emergency contact information. Include a favorite toy, litter box, a blanket/bedding, an appropriate size carrier for each cat along with cleaning products for sanitation needs, a flashlight and a first aid kit. Download FEMA's brochure ([www.aspc.org/sites/default/files/disaster-preparedness-checklist.pdf](http://www.aspc.org/sites/default/files/disaster-preparedness-checklist.pdf)) and purchase and place a pet sticker on your front door (available at Cat Depot) to let rescue workers know you and your pets are inside your home should they need help. Your pet is part of your family so protect them and stay safe!

By Linda Slavin



## Join Cat Depot's Monthly Giving Program to Make a Difference for Cats in Need

When you become a **Forever Friend** your monthly tax-deductible donation will help Cat Depot provide much needed care for our feline friends.

Your recurring gift will help us provide housing in our state-of-the-art pods, food, litter, spay/neuter, medical care, rehabilitation, and social development for the hundreds of homeless, wounded, and abandoned cats and kittens we serve each year.

Please visit our website ([catdepot.org/other-ways-to-give/](http://catdepot.org/other-ways-to-give/)) to sign up today or complete the enclosed form and return to us with your monthly gift!

**Thank you and together we can save lives!**