

## Foster Feature!

At Cat Depot, we are very lucky to have many incredible fosters. These fosters make it possible for us to make a huge impact in the lives of so many kitties in our community. We would like to highlight a few different foster specialties within our foster families.



During kitten season, we get a huge influx of bottle babies! Bottle babies are kittens that are less than four weeks old and therefore must be bottle fed every few hours. While we have several bottle baby fosters, we would like to give a special thank you to Amy Greene who is our go-to person for some of the more serious bottle babies. Since these kittens are so young, they sometimes come in with health concerns. Amy does not back down from a challenge and will do everything in her power to help the kittens become happy and healthy. Amy also helps educate potential fosters on the how-to's of bottle baby fostering.



We also get kittens that are a little older and can eat on their own. Since they are older, these kittens tend to stay with their foster for a shorter amount of time unless they have a medical issue that needs to be cleared up. One of our

fosters, Dawn Eystone, is always willing to help out when we have kittens looking for a foster home. When her kittens come back to the shelter, they are always so sweet and snuggly! We can tell that she spoils them with love and attention while they are in her home.



Sometimes, we get cats and kittens that can be spayed and neutered, but they still aren't quite ready to find their forever home. Cats can come to us with some behavioral concerns, and we want to ensure that they can be happy in a household environment. One of our fantastic behavioral fosters is Vicki Leaden. She is incredibly passionate about cats and is so patient with the cats that need it. She really takes the time to work with her fosters, like Maria pictured here, every day and we love hearing the stories of their improvement.

Our fosters are unbelievable and the work we do would not be possible without them, especially during kitten season. It takes an entire community to give these kitties a second chance, and we are grateful for the support we receive every year. If you are interested in learning more about fostering, please visit us online at [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org).

## Items Needed!

In 2022, we are hoping to resume some of our larger in-person events. With those events quickly approaching, we are looking for in-kind donations to be used for our fundraising efforts such as raffle prizes and silent auction items! These donations can include gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants, artwork, jewelry, and so much more.

If you are interested in donating or would like more information, please contact Andie, our Development Specialist, at (941) 366-2404 x 308 or [andiea@catdepot.org](mailto:andiea@catdepot.org)!



## Forever Friends



As members of our monthly giving program, Forever Friends, make the ultimate difference in the lives of the homeless, sick, and injured cats and kittens we assist each year.

Recurring gifts are special as they immediately go to work in supporting the care of the thousands of felines we assist through our rescue, adoption, and community cat programs.

Forever Friends show their unwavering support with a consistent gift each month that safeguards our collective commitment to saving lives.

Become a Forever Friend today at [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org)!

# Cat Depot Connection



## Getting Ready for Kittens & Giving Challenge!

# WINTER 2022

Cover Cat Conner has found his forever home!

# Welcome to 2022!

Every year, shelters and rescues experience what we refer to as Kitten Season. Kitten Season typically lasts between the months of April and October and specifically refers to a time where female cats are often giving birth to litters of kittens. Many shelters get overwhelmed due to the increased number of kittens, and Cat Depot is no exception. Last year, we rescued over 900 kittens! How do we do that? We rely on the generous support of our community to help us save the lives of as many as kittens as possible.

## What Do You Do If You Find A Kitten?

Andie Antonik, Development Specialist

When you find kittens outside, it can be very tempting to immediately bring them inside. This, however, is not always what's best for the kittens. If you find kittens alone, survey the surrounding area and look to see if the mother is around. If you do not see the mother, do not assume she has abandoned the kittens. She may be looking for food or for a safer home to relocate her babies to. Watch from inside or a hidden location where the mother cannot see you for several hours to see if she returns. Staying with their mother is the best chance at survival for a kitten.



If the mother does return, there is no need to worry about the kittens. The mother will continue to take care of them and give them the care they need. If you are interested in helping, there are a few things you can do! The first thing is leave out food and water. A mother cat who is nursing can always benefit from extra food, so she can continue providing the needed nutrients to her kittens. You can also set out an outdoor shelter for her to use if there is bad weather. The shelter should be something the mother cat will feel hidden and protected in. The last thing a mother cat needs is distance from people and other animals. Do not approach the kittens or let other pets near them to avoid causing unnecessary stress on the cats.

If you have waited several hours and have not seen the mother return and the kittens appear distressed, then it is time to help them. Kittens who are younger than four weeks will require special care to survive. If you can care for them, there are several resources that will assist you in caring for the kittens. If you are unable to care for them, try reaching out to friends or local rescues who may be able to take them in. This past summer, we had a group vacationing in Florida call us and say they found a bucket



of kittens in a busy flea market. She brought the kittens in, bucket and all, and those six kittens became known as the Bucket Babies. They were overall healthy, but they were unsafe in that area due to the high volume of foot traffic and other animals. We are very grateful that they contacted us and we were able to help. Another situation where you would step in and help the kittens is if they appear sick or injured. In that case, you should step in right away and contact your local veterinary office. A kittens' immune system is not fully developed, and it is best to get them medical attention sooner rather than later.

Whether the kittens stayed with their mother or were taken in and fostered, they need to be spayed and neutered once they are eight weeks old and weigh at least 2 lbs. If

they remained outdoors with their mother, it is best to try to trap all the kittens and the mom for TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release.) This will help keep the community cat population in your community under control. If the babies were taken into foster care, they should be spayed and neutered before they find their forever home.

## 2021 Year in Review!

With your help Cat Depot rescued, cared and provided for not only the cats and kittens in our community but the folks who love them! Some highlights are below:



**1,304**  
Cats Rescued



**1,189**  
Total Adoptions



**4,349**  
Cat Care Clinic  
Patients Treated



**16,283**  
Total Volunteer/  
Foster Hours



**6,586**  
Cats Fed in  
the Community

Stay tuned for Cat Depot's full 2021 Impact Report which will be available online soon!

## Giving Challenge

April 26-27, 2022

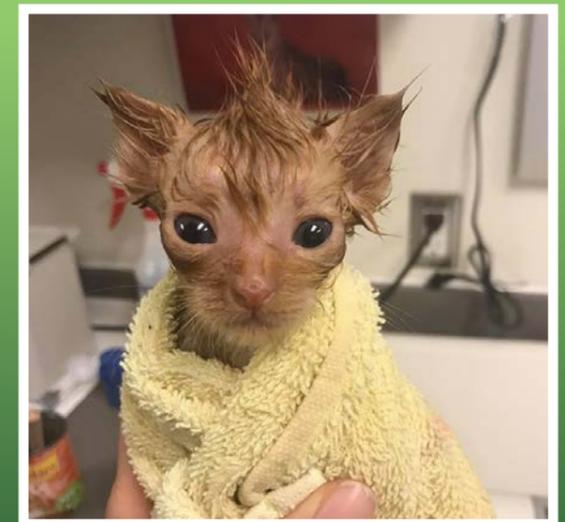


Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

"Be the One to Help Them Grow" during the 2022 Giving Challenge presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County! This 24-hour day of online giving is Cat Depot's largest fundraiser allowing us to continue providing food, medical care, and love to the cats and kittens in our community. They need your help to have a safe and healthy future!

Every credit card donation made on Cat Depot's behalf, from \$25 up to \$100, will once again be matched dollar for dollar through the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

Will you be the one to help them grow this year on April 26-27, 2022? For more information on how you can support this year's Giving Challenge, please contact Claudia Harden, Director of Communications & Development at (941) 366-2404 x 302 / [claudiah@catdepot.org](mailto:claudiah@catdepot.org) or Andie Antonik, Development Specialist at (941) 366-2404 x 308 / [andiea@catdepot.org](mailto:andiea@catdepot.org).



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

Photography: Andie Antonik, Laura Towle, Amy Greene, Claudia Harden, Kerri Rose

