

Hocus-Pocus- We need help to focus and work through Maze Daze!

Sometimes when paying monthly bills (knowing they will recur again next month), ordering food, litter, medical and cleaning supplies, seeing on bank statement BIG automatic charges for alarm systems, payroll company, Network for Good, computer security, heating, electricity, phone, and answering staff queries “When are we going to fix this, or improve that, or replace...?”

I GET SCARED!

There are NO TRICKS for paying bills when our bank balance shows more withdrawals than deposits. I whisper a little prayer of THANKSGIVING and BLESSING for our generous supporters, especially those who think of us monthly, and trust that tomorrow’s mail, or online notifications will provide the essentials we so need this month – – and next.

HALLOWEEN’S SCARY MOMENTS

The doorbell rings – – maybe a package ordered from our wish list? Or the mailman with checks? Not this time – – but a caring person with a box of kittens snuggled under their hissing mother.

Sometime later one of our faithful volunteers carries in a wide-eyed, injured kitten found under her car. “Can you drive it to our vet? Melanee will call ahead.”

On that same day we had **23** telephone requests to bring cats, **3** emails, and **another person** at the door with an older, intact male whose owner has Alzheimer’s, so, no, he cannot take cat back.

“Please try other shelters”, we respond to callers. “I have called everyone in city and some suburbs. All are full, or do not answer phone, or require online application with a minimum 2 to 3 weeks wait. I don’t have a computer or time – – I am on my way to work, or moving out of Illinois, or...”

We do not judge these rescuers, who clearly mean well, but thank them for their efforts, and – – “Yes, we will care for these babies too.”



Melanee hears NEWBORN kittens screaming and sees that new momcat has turned away from them. Their umbilical cords were tangled in the placenta. Momcat pulled one kitten out, but it died, so she turned away from the rest, confused and defeated.

Wonderful Melanee carefully cut each kitten loose and watched as momcat licked and cleaned each baby, then sighed with relief as she lay down to rest while they nursed. All are doing fine now under Melanee’s watchful eye.

Meanwhile, volunteers prepared six carriers for cats to be spayed tomorrow so they can go home with adopters and free up cages for newcomers.

Sue makes a quick broomstick ride to our P.O. Box to see if there are any new donations to help with this one day’s overwhelming demands, and I return to the trick of paying this month’s bills, and hoping, praying for a heap of beautiful autumn checks to blow our way tomorrow!



We know that **BLACK CATS** Bring **GOOD LUCK** and we are happy to share!



5 little black kittens sat huddled next to their mother by the side of the road, scared and confused. Their mother had been hit by a car and had died. A kind passerby saw them and picked them up, and brought them to us. They were infested with fleas and parasites. We gave them several flea baths and treated them for parasites. They in turn are some of the sweetest kittens to ever grace our home. They adore people and are so friendly, everyone loves them!



At 8-9 weeks of age, Lotus and her siblings had never been around humans. They were very fearful and mistrusting. When they first came to Touched by an Animal they lashed out in fear. After weeks of slow coaxing, food motivation training and lots of patience, Lotus and sibs have turned it around! They love to be petted, scratched under the chin, and will even roll over for belly rubs! They should be available for adoption soon!

Bella Swan had a home. Her family let her in and out and she wasn't spayed so she ended up pregnant. The woman wasn't interested in the kittens but said she wanted Bella back. We agreed to take Bella and her babies, get Bella her needed vet care, and the family would take Bella home. We did all of that and got Bella's babies adopted. The family disconnected their phone and never answered their emails so Bella is still with us looking for a loving family.



Fizz is a sweet 7-month-old Persian kitten who is quiet and shy but can be happily held for hours. He was brought to us by a woman whose grandmother was no longer able to care for the little guy. He is definitely a heartbreaker and will get snapped up quickly!

Come meet these and our many other velvety Black Cats. Look into their eyes and enjoy the **GOOD FORTUNE** of bringing one to your home!





MARIJON'S PURRSONAL BLACK CATS WHO TAUGHT ME THAT CATS ARE PURRSONS TOO!



My first black cat, when I was 8 years old, was a feral black kitten born in the loft of an abandoned barn which I visited daily after school, slipping in through loose boards, (unknown to my parents). For weeks I sat still and quiet in a faraway corner watching the litter play and grow, while mother cat kept a wary eye on me and on one curious kitten who seemed to want to approach me a little closer each day.

One day when I slipped into the barn, mother cat and her brood had left for the hills, except for the black kitten, whom I named "Midnite". I sat still in my usual corner and let it approach with slow, pulling back steps. The next day and for a few after, I returned with a bowl of milk, setting it gradually closer to me, and talking softly to the kitten. I was delighted when Midnite finally climbed into my lap and one day onto my shoulder, even staying there when I got up to leave.

For a few weeks Midnite rode confidently on my shoulders everywhere I went outside. It was clear that this little brave cat did not want to be inside the house however, scampering off my shoulders when I approached the door.



Eventually my parents commented that my feline friend was weighing my shoulders down, obviously too big to be an ordinary housecat. A neighboring farmer informed us that Midnite's mother was from a colony of Southern California mountain lions (also known to locals as cougars or panthers)! Eventually "my kitten" too, felt the call of the hills.



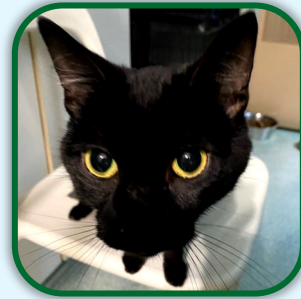
I credit that childhood bonding with my instinctive understanding of urban ferals - - who are scared, cautious, but so wanting to trust and be respected **on their own feel-safe terms**



THE FIRST FELINE RESIDENT of OUR LITTLE BLUE HOUSE BROUGHT GOOD LUCK TO THE YEARS OF RESCUES WHO FOLLOWED



Also black, and a stray, Weeds wheedled her way into my life one summer evening in 1983 while I was weeding our backyard community garden. When I saw her hiding in the tall weeds I said, "Go to your home!" Later when I went into my house (same which is ours now), there was Weeds who had made herself "at home" on my bed!



Months later, I credit weeds with saving my life when autumn storm lightning bolts hit our neighborhood, causing fires and leaving a wide black streak down the front of our house. Just before the bolt struck I had my hand on the metal screen door handle, but released it abruptly only because Weeds, standing in the living room, let out a blood-curdling howl, and I turned to look at her big black eyes staring straight into mine.



The bolt hit, briefly setting the front of the second floor on fire, but Weeds and I lay unconscious under the coffee table until the firemen woke us.

Had this little black cat not screeched at me, I would have had my hand on the metal door handle when the lightning struck.

I always credit Weeds, my black once-stray cat, with saving my life then, and inspiring me to save the lives of the hundreds of cats who have since lived here.





Colorful Cats



Spirit



Koda

Spirit and Koda One of our previous adopters was walking in her neighborhood and saw these two cats huddled together by a bush. She brought them to us and we were able to locate a microchip to a shelter in the suburbs. After much digging we found out the previous owner had moved and left them. The shelter said we could bring them back but they had no space so they most likely would be euthanized. We agreed to keep them so we could give them a second chance at finding a new home.



Rose

Robert and Rose were left in an abandoned apartment and were very shy when they first came to us. Robert came out of his shell more quickly than Rose and was adopted to a loving couple. Rose, a beautiful calico, has come a long way and is finally ready for her one-on-one with a loving adopter.

Bubbles was brought to us because his owner has developed Alzheimers and could no longer care for him. He is a gorgeous Russian Blue who is playful but loving. Hopefully it will be his turn to find family soon!



Bubbles

Cinnamon is a rare female orange tabby who was found outside with four tiny babies. She was a great mama to them and she loves a good cuddle Her babies all have new families, and she would like one too!



Cinnamon

Apple A caring woman who feeds a lot of strays in her neighborhood noticed a new kitty trying to find food. This kitty was very shy but really enjoyed the attention and food. She was also very pregnant! Apple is here with us waiting patiently to have her babies!



Apple

Our Cats Are BEWITCHING To Visitors



Josh & Salt



Cora with Kittens



Pat, Lily, & Kittens



Rhoda, Julia & Cats



Kendall & Carrot



Audrey & Pepper



Our Adopters Over the Moon with Feline Love



Kelly, Ying, & Yang



Kathy & Tess



Jessica & Cheeto



Will You Adopt Us?



SCORE A TOUCHDOWN THIS FALL ADOPT A WINNING PLAYER FOR YOUR FAMILY TEAM.

COME SEE OUR DRAFT CHOICES OF OVER 80 HOPEFULS AND LET MELANEE COACH YOU TOWARD BEST PICKS.



WE ARE ALSO RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS,
ESPECIALLY SOME WITH CARS WHO CAN DRIVE
OUR CATS TO OUR VET IN GLENVIEW.



These cats have had a hard luck losing streak, but continued DAILY TRAINING with volunteers. Help them get to the GOAL POST of a HAPPY Home!



Max

Max, 6 years old, came with his sister. Both were shy, but Max was more so. With lots of encouragement from staff & volunteers he is now a very loving kitty and eligible to be a champion pet.

Carrot wants to concentrate on her own game plan for winning one person's heart. Young children distract her, so she has been returned to us twice, disappointed and so wanting to be chosen and loved just for herself!



Carrot



Zinnia

Zinnia, a senior cat, lets others CARRY THE BALL, but is always grateful for the chance to run with it. A home of her own, without so many competitors would be a point-adding game changer!

Gentle the Earth





W E
G I V E
T H A N K S



THANK YOU FOR YOUR THANK YOUS

which we happily share with staff, volunteers, and donors/supporters. Your comments are a special joy and incredible affirmation of our staff and volunteers **LIVING TBA's CORE VALUES**, and we are grateful to our faithful **DONORS** and **SUPPORTERS** "behind the scenes" who **ENABLE** us to continue.

YOU, to whom we appeal with each newsletter describing some of the season's stories and plans, deserve the accolades as well as do our super-dedicated staff and volunteers, for **YOU** who generously respond to our financial needs, assure the continuance of **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S** vital services.

Some kind notes came by mail, and we post these on our bulletin board for all staff and volunteers to **FEEL THANKED**.

"Thank you so much for taking in and making room for all those kitties in need. Blessings to all! Here is some help on the way to pay for food and vet bills."
 -L.A.

"Hi, I wanted to write this little note to say **THANK YOU** again for all the love you gave to Astro, Star, and Missy. I honestly didn't know what I would have done without your love and care for animals. You were my last resort, and I am forever happy and appreciate that I found your organization. I thank God everyday for the love and care you provided them. So grateful to have them back with me."
 Sincerely always,
 -C.K.

See Touched By An Animal **Google** Reviews



A CAUTIONARY TAIL OF TOO MUCH HOCUS POCUS

“Reasons to Spay and Neuter,”

By Steve Dale, April 6, 2022 *Catster Magazine, Online*

Lots and lots of kittens. Female cats can come in and out of estrus many times in an entire month — mostly spending the month in estrus. And the intact guys are always ready.

Then, no time for a break — it’s back to business. It only takes a minute or two for cats to mate, and cats may mate multiple times in a very short period of time. The point is that cats are experts at reproduction.

**FELINE MAGIC
multiplies
kittens all year
long!**

**Break the spell by
reminding
people to spay/
neuter every
cat/kitten, and
support No kill
shelters!**



Shelter Euthanasia Increasing — (NOT at TBA/CAPT!)

Adoption has not been able to outpace the intake of pets in 2022. Cats, who are euthanized at twice the rate of dogs, remain the most at-risk pets in some animal shelters.

-*Catster Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2022, Page 10.*



OUR CORNUCOPIA IS OVERFLOWING WITH BLESSINGS AND WE ARE THANKFUL, GRATEFUL



SUPER DEDICATED STAFF:



Melanee – Executive Director, Chief of Staff, Volunteer Coordinator, Adoption Counselor, Cat Nurse, Kitten Mom & Midwife



Sue – V.P., Director of Operations, House Maintenance, Archives & Current Files



Cathie – Board Member, volunteers 3 times a week, Donor & Mailing List Upkeep



Scott – Graphic Designer, Grant Writer, Research Assistant



Jo Ann – Bookkeeping and Donor Database Management



Cynthia & Corinne – Vet Techs check each feline, give eye meds



Mireya & Michael – Meticulous house cleaners, cat caregivers



COMMITTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Marijon, Andy, Julia, Jim, Ashley, Melanee, Sue, Cathie.



WONDERFUL DEVOTED VOLUNTEERS – eager to help in any way asked. Here is a picture of our summer appreciation party which shows just a few.



GENEROUS DONORS, SUPPORTERS, FRIENDS – who fuel our Mission's work.



APPRECIATIVE ADOPTERS – especially those who keep contact



CARING RESCUERS – The Original Lifesavers



CONTRACTOR – Our longtime safety conscious electrician, plumber, carpenter, **Richard Redig**, who installed new kitchen cabinets, and CAT WALKWAYS above them.



PETER DEIMEL – who has hosted 3 evenings fundraisers at his elegant River Walk restaurants – **AZUL & FAME**.



MARY ANN GALANTI and JAN & RICK ZUNICA – who, for many years have donated and created most of the beautiful baskets for our Benefit Silent Auctions.



OUR BEAUTIFUL CATS & KITTENS -- Come visit and enjoy their spell of feline fun, affection, and calming effect!





**GRATEFUL for the PEOPLE & ANIMALS
WHO TOUCH OUR LIVES,
WE INVITE**

**YOU
To**



**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL &
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO
39TH THANKSGIVING BENEFIT**

12 - 3

**Holiday Inn North Shore
5300 West Touhy Ave,
Skokie, IL 60077**



♥ **Enjoy a delicious
Vegetarian/Vegan
Brunch with
made-to-order
omelets.**

♥ **GIFTS** ♥ **RAFFLES**
♥ **SILENT AUCTION**
♥ **CARING AWARD**

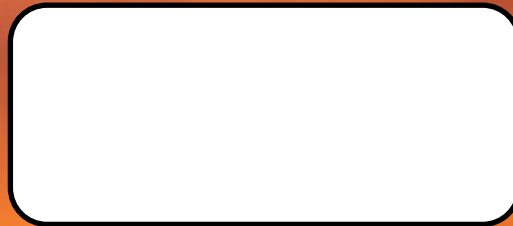
**Come — Bring Friends —
For a FUN, MEMORABLE,
MEANINGFUL Day of THANKSGIVING and SHARING
and zooming with our cats on the big screen!**

Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too, P.O. Box 59067, Chicago IL 60659
☎ (773) 728-6336 🌐 www.touchedbyananimal.org ✉ tba@touchedbyananimal.org

**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO**
P.O. Box 59067
Chicago, IL 60659
www.touchedbyananimal.org



Your Invitation
Nov. 20, 2022 Inside



**OUR CATS WILL DO
TRICKS FOR TREATS.**

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR
WHEN CATS ARE FALLING INTO OUR HOME!**

**Our cats
need funds for
veterinary care,
food, litter, heating
bill, & house
repairs for
the winter!**

**Help us squirrel
away provisions
for our winter
needs!**

**Who-o-o
Will help us?**

