



**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL**  
**CATS-ARE-PURRRSONS-TOO**  
P.O. Box 59067  
Chicago, IL 60659  
[www.touchedbyananimal.org](http://www.touchedbyananimal.org)

# Our Summer Superblooms



**Strengths**



**Safety**



**Surrender**



**Specials**



**Stories**



**Surprises**



**Snuggles**



**Survivors**



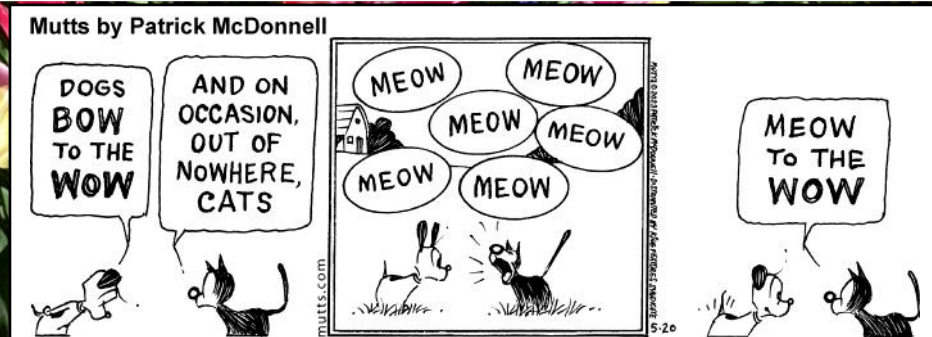


# Our Summer of Superblooms is Flourishing with Fantastic Felines

Like the occasional desert phenomenon of SUPERBLOOMING SPRING FLOWERS, FELINE FAMILIES are popping up at our front door this year more than usual.



These Mutts Cartoons used with permission of Crock © 1978 North American Syndicate, Inc, World rights reserved.



**WOW! We BOW to our Super Staff, Manager Melanee, Skilled Vet team, Funtastic Volunteers, Faithful Supporters, Responsive Donors, and New Friends.**



# Beguiling Kittens Blossom & Bloom



Posh Spice



Trouble, Biscuits, & Karma



Eggy



Dexter



Oink



Blue



Mantis



Daffodil, Bloom, & Cabbage



Munchkin



Baby Cakes



Cricket



Mousse



Muffin





**Jimmy**



**Mr. Perfectly Fine**



**Jasper**




**Baby Spice, Spice,  
Ginger, and Moo**



**Blackberry &  
Bloom**



**Squeak**



**Tulip, Daffodil,  
Daisey, Bronx, &  
Squeak**



**Red, Pussycat, &  
Pricilla**



**Taylor Swift &  
Evermore**



**Percy**



**Paisley**



**Munchkin**



**Mr. Mischief & Enchilada**



**Sanga, Buzz, & kitty**





## FLOWERS and OUR FELINES FLOURISH even as OUR SUMMER FINANCES FLOUNDER

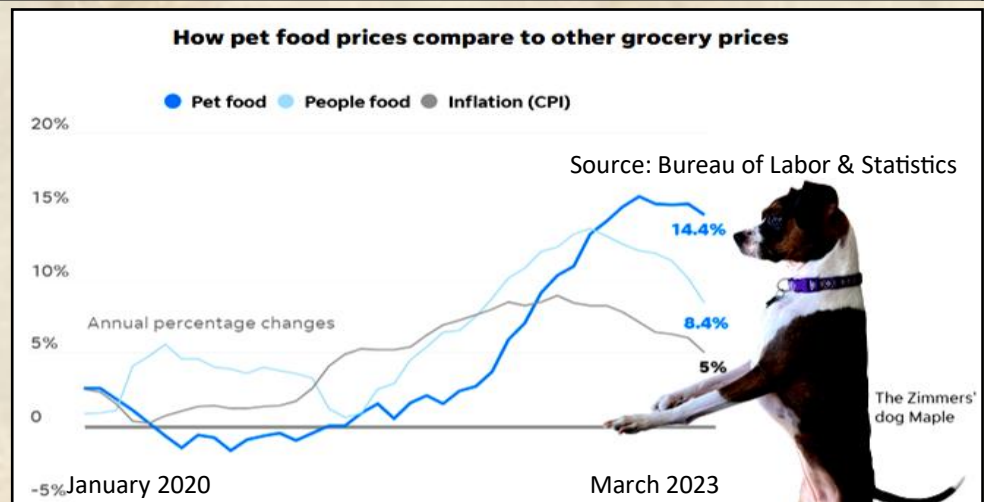
Articles compiled and edited By Marijon Binder, Founder & President  
June, 2023

This summer's superblooming numbers of CATS, KITTENS, and COSTS, are rapidly fading **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S** current **FISCAL PICTURE**.

We need "Miracle-Gro!" Like flowers that turn their faces to the sun, we turn toward our **FAITHFUL** – and **NEW** – friends. We know that **LOVE BLOOMS** in the hearts of our supporters and that some who can will send "Miracle-Gro" dollars or something from our **WISHLIST**. Friends will **NETWORK** to spread **STRONG ROOTS** with others who believe that **CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO**.

### Fed survey: More Americans now struggling with their finances

Bloomberg News  
Chicago Tribune | Section 2  
Friday, May 26, 2023



### Price hikes are double whammy for pet owners who are crushed by inflation

By Alicia Wallace, CNN  
Updated 10:07 AM EDT, Wed March 22, 2023

When annual CPI declined to 6%, the catch-all "pets, pet products, and services" index rose to 10.9%, veterinary services jumped nearly 2 percentage points to 10.3% and pet food increased to 15.2%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The price hikes of pet food have been attributed to rising input and ingredient costs. The costs of chicken, beef, and aluminum, have been rising dramatically throughout 2021 and 2022, which has caused retailers and manufacturers to increase their prices.

Those price increases are a **double whammy** for pet owners whose household finances have been weakened and for those who fear rising instances of "economic euthanasia."

The recent pet-specific price spikes are also compounding pressures facing organizations which provide a safety net for animals in need.

A number of animals are being abandoned that have some medical issues. Because people just can't afford those expenses, they hope by dropping off [their pets] at our facility that we're going to be able to pick up the slack. We do the best we can, but it's really putting a strain on our resources."

"It's heartbreaking to know some pet owners are being put in a position of making a decision whether to surrender that pet to an animal shelter or about euthanasia because they can't afford care," she said.

Some people tend to get angry at the pet owner who abandons or surrenders a pet, but when pet owners get to that point, it's the only option they see available. And that's real, and that's hard for everybody involved, and that's really hard for the animal who's at the center of it.



# Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purrrsons-Too Tribune

Thursday July 6, 2023 | Chicago Tribune

## Vet shortage causing big problems for animal rescue, shelters



Staffing shortages and a booming pet population make it hard for U.S. veterinarians to keep up with demand. The number of pet dogs jumped 16% between 2016 and 2020, while pet cats climbed 6%, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

U.S. clinics have raised salaries to attract more workers, but the wage hikes coupled with inflation mean higher costs for pet owners. The cost of veterinary services is up 10% year-over-year.

## ACCORDING TO GIVING USA research and the LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL of PHILANTHROPY of Indiana University:

As the price of things increases, people need more money, so they donate less... The decline comes at a time when many not-for-profits, especially ones providing services to those in need, report an increase in requests for help.

Philanthropic Foundations made fewer grants in 2021-22, shifting focus to helping larger NFP's for more targeted impact.

Additionally, "GO FUND ME" and other CROWDFUNDING sites increase people's opportunities to give directly to those in need rather than through NFP's. Understandable with today's reports of institutional mishandling of funds, lack of transparency, and extortionate CEO salaries.

Waggle, a pet-dedicated crowdfunding platform for medical expenses and emergencies, has seen a recent spike in the volume of postings on its website – with a 30% increase in posting for help with medical bills \$250 and under.

## Touched By An Animal Great \$50K Challenge Grant Met, Exceeded, and Gives Hope for Future By Marijon Binder



Pansies are aptly nicknamed HEARTSEASE, and our dear friend, Eleanor, who lived with us for 12 years, said their little bobbing faces reminded her of kittens peeking mischievously at us.

This summer, our hearts desperately needed easing as we watched our houseful of playful, trusting kittens and cats – and our bank account rapidly shrinking.

Our dedicated Board of Directors studied annual and monthly expenses and income to suggest where we can save, and it became clear that our **REGULAR MONTHLY INCOME** must be increased – starting with a **BIG JOLT NOW**.

When we asked the President of a Foundation for an early Grant, usually given only in December, he asked two important questions which I'd like to share with you now:

Q: How do we know this is not a common tactic of fundraising, a "cry wolf" ploy?

A: In 40 years, we have never used such an approach. We have always been truthfully forthright in our newsletters (3 a year), Emails, and conversations, telling supporters and showing pictures of the people and animals we have helped since last communication, and those currently in our care. Validating responses, with generous donations follow.

Q: How can we trust that a financial boost now will help to **SECURE** the **FUTURE** of your organization, your Mission?

A: Our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, supporters, are totally dedicated to continuing our Mission, proud of our 40 years of continuous history. We have rescued/saved thousands of cats and helped hundreds of people.

We know that these supporters, some of whom have been donors since our beginning in the 1980's, want us to continue. They tell us so with words, notes, and generous gifts, some every month.



We do need to cultivate **NEW CONTRIBUTORS** and regular **MONTHLY DONORS**.



One of our friends asked, "**WHAT HAPPENED?** In 40-years I don't recall you ever sending out such an alarm. I want you to continue to **BE!** Hope this check helps!" L.S.

Daily phone calls, people at our door with cat carriers or wiggling box, E-Mails from volunteers at over-capacity shelters, phone pictures of friendly strays recently shut out of a home for unknown reasons we cannot judge – these are unrelenting, heartbreaking dilemmas – and behind each is a **GOOD, LOVING, STRUGGLING** person... and a **confused, TRUSTING, TOTALLY DEPENDENT ANIMAL.**

Our **SUPPORTIVE FINANCIAL DONORS (YOU)** sometimes ask, "What does it cost to **RESCUE** one kitten or cat and prepare it for adoption?"

A question we, too, must ask every time we say "yes", to a feline's or person's pleading eyes. And then "Do we have enough money, or can we count on our generous monthly donors to give what is needed for **ANOTHER** cat or another litter?"

First need is a bath and repeated medications for parasites, then to the vet for exam, blood test, vaccinations, spay/neuter, and if needed, treatment for wounds, x-rays, ultrasound, and prescribed meds, foods, and possibly more care at a special emergency hospital. Adults usually need a dental.

Add the cost of salaries, cleaning and office supplies, time to interview and follow up with adopters, we know that we must be prepared with **\$250 MINIMUM** for each new rescue. We ask for a **\$150** adoption fee, and we hope happy adopters will "pay it forward" in the future.



At the end of a month, with low bank balance and uncertain income, to which of these little furries must we say,

"**NO** – you cannot bloom here – our garden is in drought."


Or to what person in financial or health crisis can we say, "**We are sorry but we cannot help you now.**"

The reality is that **WE CAN NEVER TURN AWAY** a cat in desperate need, or a person in crisis who asks for temporary boarding for a cat who often needs more vet care as well.

We know that neither would you want us to turn away these cats or people. So please think of these facts with our monthly calendar envelopes, quarterly newsletter appeals, or with online donations.

Larger gifts from donor-advised funds, employer matching, annual tax refunds, honorary/memorial gifts, are **wonderfully welcome and can truly save a life.**





A beautiful garden needs seeding, regular watering, dedicated nurturing,  
and specialized supplies.

Touched by an Animal's very special garden of RESCUES truly depends  
on CARING SUPPORTERS to SPREAD SEEDS of our MISSION to others,  
and WATER REGULARLY with DONATIONS (MONTHLY really helps!)

Our super dedicated staff and volunteers (Want to join?) supply daily  
NURTURING, constantly cultivating loving family pets. THANK YOU TO  
OUR DEVOTED GARDENERS!



We share pictures, stories, and progress with you in our quarterly newsletter, website,  
occasional E-Mails, and semi-annual Benefits, so you can see what precious lives  
YOU are touching each season.



LOOK at each photo and SMILE at BLOSSOMING Kittens, BLOOMING Cats that YOU  
ENABLED us to rescue from conditions of drought, negligence, infested "soil", "root" injury.





Forty years ago, Marijon, with a small group of caring neighbors, founded CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO on the frontier of the NO-KILL MOVEMENT, believing that BOTH PERSONS' and PURRSONS' lives are PRECIOUS and worthy of RESPECT and CARE.

Before and at that time, “surplus” cats and dogs, kittens and puppies, were routinely killed, many in gas chambers, if they were deemed unadoptable, older, having any health issues, feral (scared? shy? self-defensive?), or simply no cage space. People in temporary health or financial crises were required to sign PERMANENT SURRENDERS.

Clearly, our home has been a lifesaving refuge for thousands of cats (plus a few dogs, birds) and an anchor of hope for loving human companions. We encourage those who can, to reclaim their bonded pets, offering in-home help or frequent visits to nursing home, even hospice.

We have dealt with Ringworm, FIP, FIV, FL, Parvo, parasites, UTI, URI, tumors, Cerebellar Hypoplasia, blindness, severe dental disease, abuse, neglect, injuries, and orphan kittens' “failure to thrive,” as well as felines so emotionally scarred they can't quite bring themselves to trust humans – but feel content and safe in our home. All HEARTBREAKING, but thrilling to see progress. When our veterinarian tell us “nothing more can be done without greatly increased suffering,” one of us caresses the cat so it knows it is loved as the final injection is gently applied. And, yes, we cry, and feel grateful for the unique gifts of that feline in our home and hearts whether for a short stay or many years.

Our SUPER CAREGIVERS throughout all these years, and NOW, have been KIND, GENEROUS, EMPATHETIC, GENTLE, CARING, LOVING.

And our SUPERGIVING FRIENDS – feeling the TOUCH of AN ANIMAL deep in your hearts, are keeping us going – WELCOMING, VALUING, and HONORING the wonderful HUMAN-ANIMAL COMPANION BOND.

**TOGETHER LET'S CELEBRATE with THANKSGIVING these WONDERFUL ANIMALS and PEOPLE who have GRACED our LIVES these BLESSED 40 years, and CONTINUING OUR MISSION AD MULTOS ANNOS at OUR 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023.**



It is an honor to help this wonderful organization! Much love from me and my kitty family. -B.C.

Truly an incredible shelter and rescue. Each cat is treated with complete love and compassion, and I'm so proud to support by adopting two perfect cats. -J. D.

**LIKE INTERTWINING VINES  
GOOD PEOPLE CONNECT with CARING and HELP,  
STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION  
and GROWING OUR FINANCES  
to REACH AROUND, UP, OVER, and BEYOND obstacles.**

We – staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, -- are heartened, humbled, and immensely GRATEFUL to YOU, our CARING FRIENDS who are responding generously to TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S immediate need and great \$50,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE. With such SUPPORTIVE HUMAN VINES and 40-year deep roots in our CORE VALUES, TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, is continuing its lifesaving Mission of helping animals and people.

Challenges of growth and strengthening are never "one-and-done." Please CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TBA'S MISSION, STRENGTHENING our DAILY WORK by INTERTWINING with your friends, associates, Social Media, funding sources, ideas.

Did you know that YOU ARE AMONGST the ELITE 3% of Americans who give to ANIMAL and ENVIRONMENTAL causes? You are LIFESAVING HEROES. We are GRATEFUL that YOU CHOOSE and ENTRUST TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL to rescue, care for, and assure a future to cats we all value and love.

We invite you to COME VISIT and see for yourself what YOUR DONATIONS are accomplishing daily.

MULTIPLY your GOOD and STRENGTHEN our VINES by giving our QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS to others. In each, we show some of our current cats, tell their stories, and introduce the loving people who care for them – staff, volunteers, adopters, visitors.

It takes MANY DEDICATED GARDENERS and ENABLERS to plant, cultivate, water, tend daily, and protect BEAUTIFUL, LIFE-SHARING GARDENS. THANK YOU!

Love you guys there and the work you do!! Happy to help however I can. -M. M.

Thank you for caring for the kitties! -L. F.

This is a very special place where each cat is lovingly nurtured. My cat Daisy brings me the greatest joy. I am happy to support TBA! -A. B.

In honor of my sweetheart feral kitties. Touched by an Animal were the only ones who helped me. L.C.

Hope this helps – I love all the kitties. :) -K.M.

With much love!

Love from me and my kitty family. -R. K.

Thank you for the wonderful work you do. -I. G.





**LOVE BLOOMS** at the **CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
where these beautiful photos were taken by Sue Buzzo and Linda Andrews.

Tulips wave **“WELCOME!”** Rosebuds are eager to burst with **LIFE**. Pansies nod their little faces upward in greeting. Trees are dressed in finest blossom bonnets. The garden is peaceful, joyful, calming, inviting shared laughter and comments.

The ambiance inspires the theme of this newsletter, reflecting on our original **CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO** axiom, **“GENTLE THE EARTH.”**

These beautiful flowers are blooming with **LIFE-SHARING JOY BECAUSE DEDICATED GARDENERS PLANTED SEEDS.**

**WE NEED YOU, TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL’S DEDICATED SUPPORTERS, to PLANT SEEDS in GIVING HEARTS**

of your caring, pet-loving friends, associates, employers.

**SPREAD THE WORD** of our Mission, **SHARE** our newsletters, E-Mails, and FB posts, **LINK** to our website, **INVITE** to our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala (Nov. 19, 2023), **BRING TO VISIT** our cats/our home. **ASK FOR DONATIONS** to **GROW TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL’S MISSION NEXT SEASON, NEXT YEAR,** to enable kittens and cats choking with drought or neglect **BLOOM** to their **FULLEST LIFE.**



**LOVE BLOOMS**  
in the **HEART, HOME, and MISSION** of  
**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL**

where **WE CULTIVATE** and **NURTURE** our **CORE VALUES**

WELCOME CARING HOSPITALITY  
NON-JUDGEMENTAL PURPOSE EMPATHY  
LAUGHTER SMILES KINDNESS  
CELEBRATION  
COMPASSION LIFE INCLUSIVENESS DETERMINATION  
HELPFULNESS JOY DELIGHT FUN FRIENDSHIP  
SHARING GENTLENESS GRATITUDE

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Thank you for the work you do for the kitties. -M.H.

As a volunteer, I see how difficult it is to operate this shelter. Marijon is so generous and despite my financial status, it is the right thing to do. -M. K.

Thank you for your amazing work! -L.R.

**Our SUPER GRATITUDE to FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS for your GENEROUS Donations & Appreciative Notes**

Thank you Melanee. -M.A.G.

For Brownie/Chloe – We love her so much & are so thankful all you’ve done for her and her babies. -S.G., & B.C.

Happy to help out such a good cause. -B.P.

In honor of Melanie, the most compassionate human in the Chicagoland area on a very sad day. -C.R.

In celebration of all the good work you do — you are awesome! E.L.

Your loving and unconditional care for these beautiful creatures is so appreciated. I hope Stony is ok. -E.G.

I got my sweet BMO (formerly named Grumpy) from here with the help/friendship of Melanee. Thank you so much! -A.E.

This check is for a Holiday party for TBA’s wonderful staff and volunteers. -D.K. & J.K.

Tx for everything, Melanee. We are so lucky to have found you. God Bless. -R.K.

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