

Your need to know -- read page 1



www.touchedbyananimal.org

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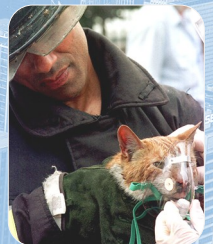
TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL



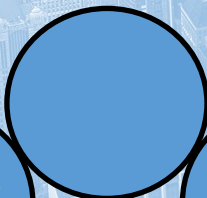
"We can rescue them..."



This MAILING is a *"twofer, a doubleheader"* -- it contains both our updating *Fall Newsletter and Invitation to our Thanksgiving Celebration*, honoring and thanking local First Responders who rescue animals as well as people. You will find enclosed, YOUR PURRSONAL INVITATION to our annual THANKSGIVING BENEFIT FUND and FRIEND-RAISER. We hope you can join us for a fun, memorable, meaningful day of THANKSGIVING, SHARING, and TRIBUTE to some local first responders, rescuers, heroes—with GRATEFUL WELCOME to YOU, our FAITHFUL FRIENDS whose continuing donations support our home where CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO and enable the LIFESAVING CARE begun by rescuers. *The Mission of TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL DOES NOT END WITH THE RESCUE: IT CONTINUES* WITH a lifetime promise for both the animal and the bonded persons whose worlds have changed because of our Mission -- a commitment YOU make possible!



...but only You can save them."





Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purrrsons-Too
P.O. Box 59067 - Chicago, IL 60659
(773) 728-6336 - www.touchedbyananimal.org

Mission Statement: We preserve the nurturing bond between people and their companion animals by helping the Elderly and others maintain this loving relationship and providing lifetime homes for cats when needed, in our home, where Cats-Are-Purrrsons-Too.

YOUR NEED TO KNOW - - PLEASE READ

WHO RESCUES WHOM

When I see - - and admire - - the young activists marching, working to save the Earth's environment, people's rights and safety, or the larger animal orgs sending caravans to rescue animals from floods and fire-ravaged states, I know that TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S local efforts are not "saving the world." But so often I see personally that for every dog or cat, every wandering orphaned kitten, and each overwhelmed person we can help with purposeful care, their whole world significantly changes.

This summer alone I have witnessed the new hope and resolve our caring for a companion animal has assured and motivated a cancer patient to continue treatment, an alcoholic to enter a residential rehab program, an attempted suicide patient to seek ongoing counselling, a homeless family regain their future in an apartment with their much loved pets, a person dying peacefully in hospice leaving a bedside Thank You note for his cat's lifetime care through TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL. I gratefully share these stories with staff and volunteers, many of whom are involved in each rescue, and in our quarterly newsletter with you, our generous donors and caring supporters who provide initial and continuing lifesaving costs. We can rescue, but YOU SAVE these precious lives and assure life-changing care, reunions, or adoptions.

Together we do change the world of individuals - - and individuals change the world!

SOMETIMES RESCUERS NEED RESCUING

It has been a very full, sometimes overwhelming kind of summer which, quite honestly, has overrun our budget and depleted our resources. This time I will tell you that Touched By An Animal really does need an *urgent infusion* of funds to even begin to meet Fall needs. Anticipating cold weather for homeless, once loved cats, a last surge of kitten births, relocating families unable to take their pets, winter illnesses - - especially the elderly, and non-kill shelters overfilled with rescues from hurricanes and floods, I must admit what I usually spin with optimism, even from staff and supporters who I know already give their all: ***Our bank account is now too low.***

I am hearing breathcatching alarm bells every time my smart phone alerts me to another unavoidable monthly payment for utilities, insurances, payroll, quarterly taxes, computer costs (internet, backup, Constant Contact, website), Chewy.com, for cat food and litter, plus vet bills, cleaning supplies, repairs, etc.

WE CAN RESCUE – ONLY YOU CAN SAVE

My mailbox is filled these days - - as I'm sure yours is, with *urgent* letters, *emergency appeals*, "Go Fund Me" needs. We do not write with "scare techniques" or pay a national mailing firm or marketing or advertising company to send repeated desperation requests for your money.

We journal stories and photos of the cats and the people we have been helping since our last quarterly newsletter, trusting that if you like what we are doing, you will value our ongoing Mission and send generous support so we can continue.

Those of you who do respond with \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 as you are able, do DIRECTLY KEEP US GOING, directly ***enable us*** to say "Yes, we can/will help you" to anxious callers. YOU absolutely SAVE the lives of waiting rescues. Please do not underestimate ***your power or our NEED.*** Without it, a "No, I'm sorry, but we simply do not have sufficient finances to commit," is devastating, sometimes hopeless to the caller – and certainly of unpredictable consequences to the animal.

With this letter I am honestly - - and hopefully - - sharing with you Touched By an Animal's very real, very immediate ***NEED NOW*** for your ***GENEROUS HELP*** to continue our Mission of rescue and commitment.

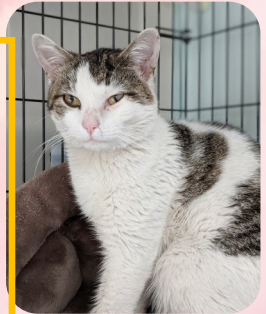
Gratefully, *Marion Bender*, Staff, and Kitties

Marvel and May and their

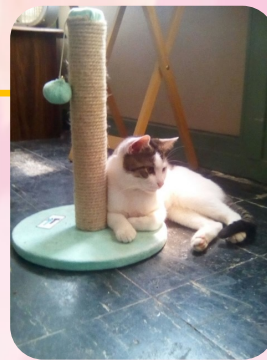
Looking forward to the best of their 9 lives

Late one evening in May a call came from the Chicago 9th district fire station asking if we could take two cats just rescued from a burned-out building. The next morning, Turna, wife of Paramedic Field Chief Bill May, brought the very frightened, confused cats to our home. We named them MAY and MARVEL.

Marvel, a feisty little grey and white tabby with singed fur and a cough from smoke inhalation, recovered quickly and sidled up to everyone to tell his story and purr his thanks, pleading for a warm lap and a sense of belonging. Soon he met his dream lady who couldn't resist his charms!



Here are the pictures she sent us. Doesn't he look like the happiest cat ever in his new "forever home" ?



Who knows what pretty Calico, MAY's life was like before her fire rescue? She is still very cautious of people approaching her cage, understandable with the terrible injuries she has suffered - - and protective of her babies born June 14th.



May was pregnant when she was engulfed by flames, suffered facial burns and severe tail burns, and with her leg injured, crippled. Our vet, and we, chose not to traumatize and anesthetize her for x-rays and possible surgery until after she could give birth. Two of six surviving kittens are now growing and thriving, although one's eye did not develop and will have to be removed when it is old/strong enough.

These two precious little ones will surely not suffer the life their mother did— thanks directly to the fire paramedics who believed May and Marvel's lives were worth saving. And thanks to you —our life giving donors who send the money to pay their medical expenses and to our staff and volunteers who reassure them daily with gentle care and constant loving attention.

We will continue as long as needed to work patiently with May, gaining her trust and convincing her that the rest of her nine lives will be protected in a loving home.

First Responder Rescuers

Paramedic Field Chief, Bill May holding Tilly, the little Yorkie he rescued last summer while working, when she was hit by a car and the driver kept going. We kept her.... and as you can see in the picture, she won't let Turna, Bill's wife, out of her sight!



Another Paramedic Field Chief, Derek Flowers, has rescued many animals throughout his career. For about 20 years, Derek has been caring for a colony of rescue feral cats, having built for them a winter sanctuary behind the firehouse.

By the way, we have another dog, Kora, that our son took in after someone dropped her off on the side of the road when she was just a puppy. We have had her for about 8 years. She refused to cooperate while we were taking family pictures. Our family also includes Max, a Macaw, Baby, a Parakeet, and Ethel, a Cockatiel.



This is Bill with our dog Buster, who has been with us for almost 12 years now - and Pumpkin, our cat, both rescues. Bill found Pumpkin while working at the scene of a fire. She lived with his mother until his mom passed away last summer.

Kathy Conrad, another Paramedic Field Chief with the Chicago Fire Department, has rescued numerous animals during her career, both on and off the job, as we all have.



TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE LIVED MOTTO OF CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS

We salute with admiration the many dedicated police officers who think inclusively about their motto — *serv*ing whole families, and *protect*ing our non-human population who cannot dial 911 for themselves.



We have been privileged to meet several caring police officers throughout the years, as they call or come to us with a frightened feline hoping to reunite it with an owner who may have contacted us, or asking us to care for it during a physical or emotional recovery time.

Chicago Police Officer Trina Thomas, with her husband, Retired Sergeant Henry Thomas, save cats and dogs on and off the job. Always watchful for street strays and animals in peril, these super-dedicated public servants know that the *public* includes our non-human population who cannot say whether they are lost, abandoned or homeless.



Trina and Henry tirelessly maintain feral cat colonies after providing vet exams, spay/neuter, vaccinations, flea treatments and microchipping. They have brought to ERs, at their own expense, some cats which need special care, and have welcomed them into their own multi-cat family, or called to see if we could accommodate.

Knowing first hand the sustaining costs of **SAVING** an animal **AFTER RESCUING** it, Henry and Trina have been faithful and generous monthly supporters of our **CATS-ARE-PURRRSONS-TOO** home and **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL** Mission, for which we and our cats are extremely grateful.

Dangerously close to Halloween last year, another caring police officer spotted a curious, friendly black kitten wandering around a parking lot. Wanting to rescue her from possible “human goblins”, she brought her to us. Little Nala is now a much loved lifetime family member –the first pet of a doting young girl and boy.



The same police officer, and we, hoped for a similar fast adoption of another at-risk black cat, just 1 1/2 years old, that was found in December. Gloria is still with us, sweetly sidling up to visitors, hoping her people-loving purrrsonality will win her the lifelong love her color might not.

The Garrido Stray Rescue Foundation

Lt. John Garrido of the 16th Police District, and his wife, Anna, have a huge passion for animals and a magnet in their hearts for drawing them out, straight to their door - - of station, car, or home.

Knowing that Chicago Animal Care and Control is nearly always full to capacity, Lt. Garrido has established a foster-based NFP, THE GARRIDO STRAY RESCUE FOUNDATION, whose Primary Mission and Goals are pet rescue and reunification with their families. In 2018, he and his volunteers *rescued* and maintained in foster homes 297 animals, achieving 88% return-to-owner rate.



HAPPY FAMILY
REUNION

This is the Story of Ethan— this poor little pitbull was left to die in an empty apartment after his owner moved. He was near death when Lt. Garrido found him and got him emergency vet care.



Today Ethan is happy and healthy and finally living a life he truly deserves- full of love!

“When I look into the eyes of an animal, I do not see simply an animal. I see a living being, a reservoir of life; I feel a soul.”

-Anthony Douglas Williams

At our
THANKSGIVING BENEFIT BRUNCH

ON SUNDAY, November 24th, 2019

We will honor, thank, and celebrate

Our local **FIRST RESPONDERS/RESCUERS**

With **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S** annual
CARING AWARD



Please **JOIN US** — **INVITE RESCUERS** you may know
and **FRIENDS** to add their stories and tributes

The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

How was your summer? Ours was...

CHALLENGING to keep balance of resources, finances, space and help

Ours was **BUSY** -with 2-4 calls a day begging for admittance of rescued cats/kittens because other no kill shelters were at capacity.



Sabrina



Bellatrix



The O kittens

DELIGHTFUL with **MANY KITTENS**-Precious lives once in jeopardy, now growing and playing and trusting, with happy family futures.



Salem

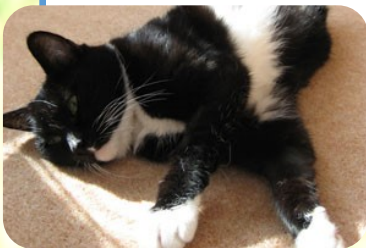


Grace Kelly



Marlon Brando

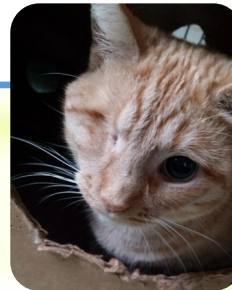
EXPENSIVE with critical ER Vet services, prolonged treatment, and some follow ups still to plan.



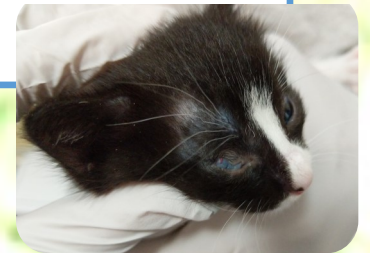
Mali was diagnosed with a brain tumor



Bella needed a feeding tube



Betty and Indy both needed an eye removed



Orphan kittens too young-needed special care/surrogate human mom and dad



BLESSED and GRATEFUL for FAITHFUL DONORS and VOLUNTEERS WE COUNT ON-- AND SURPRISE NEW FRIENDS who ENABLE us to carry out and extend our MISSION.



Rhoda at an adoption event



Some of our wonderful weekly volunteers



Pat hanging out with Ashley

WITNESSING HAPPY AND LOVING REUNIONS after our temporary care.



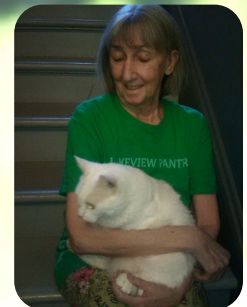
Andrea reunited with Jesse



Rita reunited with Tiger



Pam getting a visit from Sally

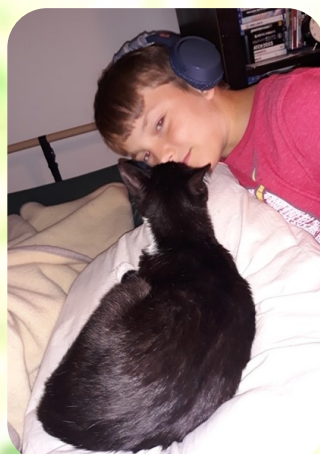


Marsha with Snow

HOPEFUL that lifelong adopters have met their PURRFECT MATCH.



Sarah with Ocean



Kenny with Tinkerbell



Liam with Nala



Amen with Ravioli

HEARTBREAKING with those we and human science could not save, especially 9 kittens who succumbed to the distemper virus.