



*Touched By An Animal*  
**Touched By An Animal**  
 We help the elderly keep their companion animals.  
**Cats - Are - Purrsons - Too**  
 We care for tossed & found kittens in our home.



# Unprecedented Times

More people are recognizing the value of COMFORT PETS in their stay-at-home lives and are seeking to foster or adopt dogs and cats in greater numbers than we have ever seen. They point out in telephone interviews, that they now have time to bond with the new pet and supervise its behavior and interactions with others in their home. Sometimes they want to bring a loving cat to an elderly person for company.

These increased adoptions, of course, are wonderful –if they are a LIFETIME and not surrendered or worse, abandoned, when normal schedules return. Our one adoption counselor, who knows each of our cats very well, and I (Marijon), spend hours with telephone interviews and matching purrsonalities, then meeting families on the porch, and follow up calls, emails, and cat care counselling. We are delighted to receive pictures of our cats content in their new homes and hear delightful messages from their happy persons who are finding that CUDDLES help to cope with COVID-19 isolation.



**We at Touched By An Animal hope and pray that you and your family are staying safe and secure during this health crisis. If we can help you and your pet in any way, please let us know.**



Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too, P.O. Box 59067, Chicago IL 60659 ☎ (773) 728-6336  
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Google searches around “adopt a pet” surged about 335% in volume, according to findings from SEMrush, a data and trends analytics company.



Because people are staying at home all day, looking out their windows more often, they are seeing more tame cats outside, some wandering perplexed, sometimes looking in, eyes pleading, softly meowing, for rescue, for food and shelter. Neighbors sometimes recognize those left behind when families moved or abandoned in desperation by those who need food for their children, or homes where domestic abuse is suspected.

In one week we took in 2 unneutered young males, two pregnant females (one who gave birth within hours of our settling her in), two momcats with litters of six each, and one who had a swollen abscess covering half her face. Because we do not have an on-site clinic, and the Chicago low cost ones are temporarily closed, we must immediately take newcomers to our veterinarian for initial exams, FIV/FELV tests, vaccinations, spay/neuter, possible injuries, or illnesses.

Answering these calls from rescuers when other area shelters have “we’re closed” voicemails, certainly adds to our financial and staff challenges.



**LAUNCH  
 A VIRAL  
 PANDEMIC OF  
 GENEROSITY &  
 HOPE!**



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



📧 Express Cat Mail Special Delivery

**Let's start a PANDEMIC of KINDNESS, COMFORT,  
 GENTLENESS, CARING, COMPASSION, GRATITUDE, HOPE**

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# AN EPICENTER OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR DEDICATED ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Maynor, Melanee, & Mike



Mike & Michaela



Stephanie & Pipsqueak



Maynor & Ozzie

## Our very special FIRST-IN-THE-MORNING RESPONDERS

who come very early and work all day, without the help of volunteers, to feed, medicate, give extra caring attention to each of our kitties, and thoroughly clean our home and screenhouse.

**Melanee**, Office Administrator, handles emails, telephone, computer. Oversees care of the cats, orphan kitten mom, adoption counselor and matchmaker, new cat welcomer, on-call weekends, and drives to vet.



**Milkshake and Luvbug** are at-home helpers and stress relievers for Marijon, chief planner, coordinator, communicator, newsletter writer, financial manager.



**Cathie**, Board Member, and 10 year active volunteer, has been donning a mask and distancing from our one worker on Thursdays and Saturdays, as well as helping with administrative work on Mondays in Marijon's off-site office.



**Scott**, at-home researcher, grant proposal writer, product solicitor, and newsletter graphic designer, with helpers, Crackle and Ralphie, Touched By An Animal alumni.



**Dr. Ashley Rossman DVM**, and staff at Glen Oak Dog and Cat Hospital in Glenview graciously rework their days' schedules to squeeze in our emergencies and unforeseen exams and treatments for new cats before we can integrate them into our home.



**Sue** — Welcome back after your family self-quarantine! Our COO, ESSENTIAL WORKER for 25 yrs. Always only a phone call or text message away, and now working double time for our cats and Mission.



And for the monthly donations we know must be hard for some of you, often accompanied by caring, thoughtful notes and calls!



Wonderfully generous friends who think of our Mission with Employee Matching requests, Donor Advised funds, and social media sharing. One person's social media posting for our little Gravity brought us a weekend response of \$3,000, some from other countries, the largest single donation being \$100! Such good friends who have a heart for little animals!

**Julia and Rhoda** use their phones to find and counsel adopters and to tell friends about our TBA Mission and home improvement needs for our home where —



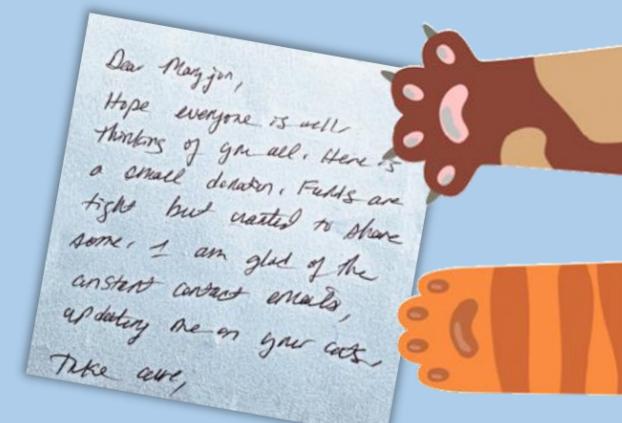
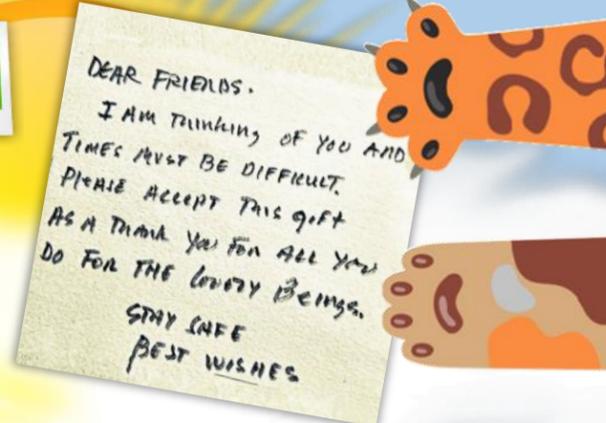
**Peter and Karen** swiftly answered our urgent plea for additional new cages, 3 tiered as needed for mother cats with kittens, and even a superb birthing cage for our suddenly enlarged Maternity Ward.



**Maynor** also volunteers to make masks for friends of our kitties. **Call or email to order.**



**Jim**, professional photographer/videographer, has updated our Touched By An Animal website and included a virtual tour of our home, especially requested by prospective adopters who for now can only view cats through windows, video chats and pictures. Check it out!



**SPREADING INFECTIOUS  
KINDNESS, CARING, PATIENCE!**



Lottie & Wicker

**Lottie** and **Wicker** had been with Touched By An Animal for many years. Little did they know their time for a happy home had come! A group of friends who live together had been wanting to adopt a cat for awhile. So they came to us hoping to find two compatible kitties. They favored black cats because they were aware that black cats are less likely to be adopted, and even less likely were older black cats. They fell in love with Lottie and Wicker. They report that both kitties adjusted quickly and are doing wonderfully.



Smoke

**Smoke** is an absolutely beautiful cat that should have been easy to get adopted. But he had a jealousy problem, wanting to be petted, but then scratching the person petting him if other cats came around. **Sydney** saw his picture online and was excited to adopt him because she had no other pets. Smoke adjusted almost instantly. He immediately wandered around her apartment, exploring each room. He especially loves the bedroom and flopped onto her bed. Sydney and Smoke are now inseparable.



Feisty

**Feisty** lived up to her name, sometimes bullying other cats. She definitely had a big personality and craved attention, but she hesitated to trust people. **Brady** was looking for some companionship during the shutdown and figured it was a good time to bond while working from home. Taken to her new home, Feisty immediately hid in a tight spot under the couch, belying her brave name. Brady let her relax with food and litter close by. He spent long periods of time working in that room where Feisty observe him, and waited patiently until he became her best buddy.



Peanut

**Peanut** would come out and lie on the laps of workers and volunteers, but to most people, she stayed hidden or ran away when approached. A tough sell for most adopters who want a cat to immediately jump onto their laps. But **Cecilee** was open to the idea and took Peanut home. Cecilee was very patient, quietly talking to Peanut and letting her know she was safe. She contacted our staff and volunteers and read about what is the best way to make your shy cat feel welcome. Peanut took her time, but now is playing and enjoying her new life with Cecilee.



Twix & Spruce

**Spruce** is a cat we thought would never get adopted. He is extremely shy but enjoyed all his cat friends. Many volunteers tried to work with Spruce to overcome his shyness. **Julie** decided she was willing to give him a home, waiting until he felt comfortable. He had been with her for a few weeks and was still hiding when Julie decided to foster **Twix**, who at 18 is one of our oldest residents. The familiar presence of Twix and observing him so comfortable with Julia is encouraging Spruce to become comfortable in his new loving home. Hopefully one day all three will be on the couch watching TV together!



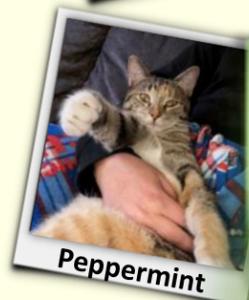
Domino

**Kelly** originally stepped up to foster **Domino**, an FELV kitty who came back from a lady who had been fostering him. Domino is a very large cat, at almost 20lbs, and likes to play rough. Kelly has a very small dog about 7lbs, so she wasn't sure if it would work out between them. It was slow at first, but both pets became more and more comfortable with each other. Kelly decided to keep Domino forever! They are all living happily together.



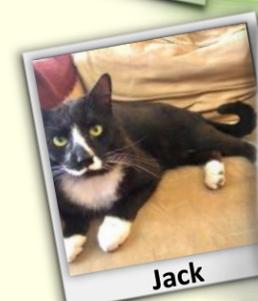
Big Red

**Linda** and her sister came from Mt. Prospect to find a cat for their mother, who was lonely during these quarantine months. They chose **Big Red**, a quiet unassuming older cat who had been overlooked for years. Their mother had lost her cat after many, many years together, and was so very lonely. Big Red is a gentle boy who loves to give and receive affection. A happy match!



Peppermint

**Peppermint** was wary of people, but at the same time, she desperately wanted love. She was adopted once, but the lady returned her because Peppermint was taking too long and wouldn't sit on her lap. Another couple decided that they would be very patient and show her love. She was quite timid at first and took her time to assess them, and slowly began to trust until finally she was sleeping on top of them and playing all day. They both said it was worth the wait!



Jack

**Jack** was trapped in the backyard of one of Touched By An Animal's supporters. Our friend was kind enough to get Jack required vet care and foster him because he tested positive for FLEV. Jack was very scared at first. He barely wanted to be touched, but once he realized he was safe he went from being almost feral to wanting attention and love all the time. His new adopters were very excited to bring him home and Jack settled in quickly. His favorite thing in his new home is sitting on the windowsill and looking out. I wonder if he is remembering his feral life outside?



Daisy

**Daisy** is a cat that was very hard to get adopted. She was very needy, aggressively demanding attention from whoever passed by her. Also, she was not a fan of other cats and needed to be in a home by herself. The combination made her a very daunting prospect to most adopters. But there is someone out there for everyone. **Anne** was looking for a cat who would curl up on the couch and need some affection. Daisy was sometimes hard to handle. She decided to give it a try.

*Hi Melanee,*

*Daisy and I continue to be very happy together. She's a great lap cat with a wonderful purr, but she's not overly demanding. She's nice company and has a sweet personality. She lets me concentrate on my work when I need to, sometimes sitting on my lap while I'm at the computer or when I am on the phone and sometimes wandering off on her own. You did well in matching us. Your guess that she would blossom when she had a person of her own and didn't have to compete with the other cats turned out to be correct. All the best to you and the caring people at TBA.*

*-Anne.*

# CARING PERSONS HAVE A PREEEXISTING CONDITION OF COMPASSION

“Can you please help me with cat food? I have been feeding my cat Cheerios for a week, but the box is nearly empty. I cannot get to the pet food bank - -I am in a wheelchair, and the “Meals on Wheels” delivery does not include pet food.”

“Tell me your address and we will find a volunteer to bring you some cat food A.S.A.P. Then we will place a monthly delivery order for you from Chewy.com

Note: Call this person at least once a month to see how she and her cat are doing.”



“There is the sweetest, friendliest cat in my backyard. I have been feeding him but I can’t bring him in because my husband is gravely ill and I have all I can do caring for him. I have asked neighbors, and have called many shelters when I could find time – they don’t answer phones or voice message says ‘Apply online,’ which I cannot do. I can give you a little money toward his vet bill, but have no one to bring the cat to you. You are my last hope for this cat! ”

“We understand. We’ll find a volunteer to drive the cat to our vet and then to our home. God bless you and your husband. Thank you for your concern for this cat in need!”



“I am looking out my condo window, and I see two cats walking between lanes on Lake Shore Drive. They look confused, wandering aimlessly, sticking together. If my son can catch them, can we bring them to you? One may be injured.”

“Yes, call when you have them, and I will make sure someone is at our house to receive them.”

Note: Within a few hours of her arrival, Mimi began giving birth to 6 kittens. The other cat, Dolly, had a swollen abscess on the side of her face -origin unknown, but now healing well after seeing the vet.



“There are tiny kittens in my neighbor’s yard, and the neighbors are very protective of their bird feeders so they will not tolerate them. I am afraid they will hurt them to drive them away. I have seen the mother once, but she seems very afraid of people. What can I do?”



“I was out jogging and I saw 3 tiny kittens huddled together in a storm drain, I know nothing about how to care for kittens, but I know a heavy storm is coming, and this is not a good place for them.”

“I jumped out of my car to grab a cat on the railroad tracks. But I am on my way to work. Can I bring him to you?”

“Yes.”



“Can I bring my cat to you? Will you find her a loving family?”

“Why do you want to give her up?”

“I can’t afford to feed her and my children at this time while I am out of work. I put her out every morning so she can find her own food, but when we open the door she rushes in, jumps on the table and eats from everyone’s plates. She is so hungry, but so are we. We have too much stress right now to be fair to her. And she has not been to a vet for shots or anything ever.

“Yes, we will take her, and in the future if you want her back we can help you with cat food.”

Note: The next day we took Suzy to our vet for exams, and found that while outside looking for food, she also found a “boyfriend” – Surprise! Suzy is soon bringing us another litter of kittens!



“When I left for work this morning I saw baby kittens huddled in a window well, with a mother cat circling at the top. I think it is too deep for her to jump vertically to carry them out. The sky is darkening as a severe storm and possible tornado are predicted about 3:00. These kittens could drown.”

Note: After SEVERAL HOURS telephoning, we found generous capable volunteers who went to help in these situations.

**PLEASE – IF YOU CAN DRIVE WITH A CARRIER TO AN ADDRESS NEAR YOU, OR IF YOU ARE KNOWLEDGE USING A HUMANE TRAP, PLEASE LET US KNOW. WE CALL PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA OF NEED, SOMETIMES TO PICK UP A CAT AND BRING TO OUR VET OR TO US.**



# ♥ Touched By An Animal Tails of Mutual Rescue ♥



The WISE OWL, slowly emerging from his stay-in-hole tree, asked his friends how their DIY Virtual Party for Touched By An Animal people had succeeded. "I observed the mail carrier deliver green donation envelopes every day for a month," said the SLOTH, with a perfect view from the tree branch overhead. "I taught my kids to 'PLAY POSSUM' outside Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too screenhouse so we could eavesdrop when the cats purred their dreams and their caregivers laughed, showing alumni videos of their friends in loving homes." With great excitement the RACCOON held up a booklet of wonderfully personal MUTUAL RESCUE stories guests had written on their Writer's Retreat, illustrated too! "I'm sure there are more chapters to come, now that people have time from other cancelled summer events!"

Credit: Michael Turco

**Elka:** During these stressful and uncertain times, my cat, Burt, has been the best cat-pany human can ask for. Very calming and joyful, his presence is priceless!



**Georgine & Rich:** We are an older couple with three cats. Since we have been home in our house 24/7, we think our cat Felix has been feeling our stress. Every evening when we sit down to watch TV, he lies between us on the sofa usually wrapped up in a blanket. When we get up to retire for the evening, he follows us to bed.



**Myra:** Now that I'm spending much more time at home, Smokey keeps life interesting by engaging me in more playdates than ever before. He pulls toys out of his many toy boxes, arranges them on the floor, & then waits for me to throw or dangle them in the air for his aMEWSment. Working from home is so much easier thanks to my ambitious assistant. Not sure how I'll manage without him when it comes time to go back to the office. I wonder whether my employer would consider putting him on the payroll? For this pic, he selected an Easter bunny, & a catnip sock which I had purchased at a TBA Brunch Fundraiser. Kudos to whomever makes those socks because Smokey Loves, Loves. Loves them! I feel so blessed to be touched by my wonderful companion animal, Smokey.



Our instigating CAT, with a slight smile and contented purr, curled up on a top perch in the screenhouse. She was quite proud of herself for bringing to life the forest friends she shares adventures with in her recurring dreams – this time successfully plotting to save TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S crucial 2020 Spring Benefit!

She asks to remain anonymous because she is very shy and has no desire to be adopted and taken away from this secure home and the kind people who rescued and helped raise her kittens 12 years ago, and have allowed her to just be herself ever since -- a dreamer in a safe place. Now in her quiet unpretentious way, she had been able to give back to her humans, imagining the NOVEL UNINVITATION to inspire others whose hearts are TOUCHED BY ANIMALS to remember that CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO and send whatever they can to help us all RECOVER.



**Scott, Linda, & Vincent:** Crackle and Ralphie help to fill the large void after our beloved Nugget of 18 years passed away. Ralphie has an appetite for constant playtime. Crackle enjoys keeping laps warm, especially Linda's, during these challenging times, giving much love and consolation. Charlie, our third cat, sleeps comfortably under the couch with his two new friends curled up by his side. All Vincent needs to say is, "Boys, assume the position." All three cats come running into the living room, lining up in formation, knowing it's "treat time." Thank you, Marijon, for rescuing these two precious animals who are now rescuing and enriching our lives.



**Melanee:** We helped our 18-year-old daughter, Ella, who is recovering from cancer, adopt a cat to help her with her recovery. Pancake is a cute little brown tabby who stole her heart. While at college, Pancake has helped with her feelings of loneliness and anxiety. When she had to bring him home because her dorm closed, he has continued to be a comfort and a welcome distraction. He chases around our two other cats and absolutely loves to play with our two big dogs. He makes us all laugh and keeps our day from getting too stressful.



**Suzanne & Rick:** Cupid's arrow can strike at the most surprising times! Suzanne, a self-professed "cat lady," never dreamed that her IU Alumni Service Day experience at our "Touched By An Animal" home would bring her new love just in time for Valentine's Day. She and her husband recently lost their beloved cat to cancer. They decided to join the IU group on the appointed day, just for fun. Little did they know what was in store! 80 friendly, beautiful felines came to greet them for lap sits, cat rubs and cuddlings. Before they knew it, Cupid's arrow caught their hearts! They ended up adopting two beautiful sibling "lap kittens" that day, just a month before the pandemic stay-at-home experience. It couldn't have been better timing!



Touched By An Animal  
Tails of  
Mutual Rescue



### TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S PRIMARY MISSION

Helping people to keep their beloved pets in their homes,  
derives from our

#### CORE VALUES

of respecting, valuing ALL living beings, and affirming the mutual love and healing benefits that humans and companion animals give each other by enabling people to keep their pets through health and financial challenges.

### HOW DO WE CARRY OUT OUR MISSION?

- 🐱 We have pet food, litter, supplies, sent to people who need help.
- 🐱 We will board cats (and arrange for foster care for dogs, birds) for people who must be hospitalized or in nursing/rehab facilities, or in transition from homelessness.
- 🐱 For those in long-term facilities or hospice, we have volunteers take their beloved pet to visit the person or arrange for FaceTime visits.
- 🐱 We will continue our caring relationship for both the pet and the person throughout their lifetime, providing veterinary care, food, and repeated boarding as needed.
- 🐱 We do not ask for any payment from those in hardship, as they should not have to choose between care or relinquishment.

### Our 36 Year History

TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL has grown from a grassroots neighbor-helping-neighbor group to a solid 501(c)(3) organization, continuing and expanding its unique Mission of helping people, especially the elderly and homeless, keep their companion animals, and caring for rescued cats in our home, where CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO.



### HOW ARE WE MEETING THE SUDDEN CHALLENGES OF COVID-19?

At this totally unexpected, unplanned time of Coronavirus, our reserve funds are rapidly dwindling as unbudgeted immediate demands are rising. Elderly people needing sudden hospitalization and extended stays in skilled nursing/rehab facilities are begging for pet care/boarding, and we must be prepared to accept cats from families who reluctantly decide to surrender them because of financial insecurity or changing living arrangements, as well as newly abandoned strays.

### WHAT IS OUR BIGGEST FINANCIAL SETBACK?

Our biggest financial setback at this time is that two of Touched by an Animal's three fundraisers, occurring one in March and the other in April, have of necessity been cancelled. A considerable amount of non-retrievable money has been invested, and now lost, in their preparation with expectation of \$30,000 - \$40,000 gain for our summer/fall operating budget.

In addition, we have lost the prospect of new donors, attendees who would have learned about our Mission and its needs, becoming enthusiastic supporters for the future.

Further, daily news updates by Illinois Governor and Chicago Mayor let us know that summer neighborhood festivals and our annual yard sale are cancelled. We are watching warnings of the fall and winter "second wave", anticipating that we may have to forgo our biggest fundraising event our Thanksgiving Benefit Brunch.

Our first, desperate, need is for cash flow, to relieve my constant prayer, "Yes, Creator of these precious lives, we will answer these calls for help, but please help us pay for the inestimable needs!" Our current bank balance is 2/3 of what it should be, and two of us are spending incalculable hours writing for grants, most of which will not come in for months, if at all, since the competition from larger, more statistically impressive, social as well as animal, organizations are scrambling for help as well.

We are smaller, but with a 36-year widespread reputation. We are non-bureaucratic, reachable day and night with one telephone call or email, and immediately responsive directly to individual needs. Police officers, firefighters, social workers, health care advocates reach out to us or give out our number.

### OUR CURRENT "TAKE A PAWS" PROJECT

asks our staff, volunteers, members, and those in critical distress due to the sudden Coronavirus shut down, to PAUSE before making a fateful decision.

To callers in distress: Do not consider giving up a furry family member -We will help.

To our staff and grounded volunteers: Don't consider curtailing our services or refusing any calls for help. LET'S PAUSE and think "outside the box" that seems to close in on our finances and our manpower. For the sake of the PAWS reaching out to us, we will hold them tight and FIND WAYS to continue our Mission so that no more pets face homelessness or lack of care, and no more people must mourn a regrettable family loss.

We will never consider closing our doors, or our telephone line, to animals or people who reach out in desperation. We will TAKE A PAW and HOLD it lovingly until we find other sources of financial aid. WE DO NOT LET THEM GIVE UP, SO HOW CAN WE?

### YES, WE ARE SHORT ON MANPOWER,

as most of our volunteers are over the age of 60 and/or have underlying health problems, so we are not asking them to come out of their homes.

If you have friends who live in Cook or Lake County and could help drive to pick up cats, take to the vet, deliver food and supplies, possibly trapping, we would welcome their assistance.



**DONATE**  
YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE **Today**