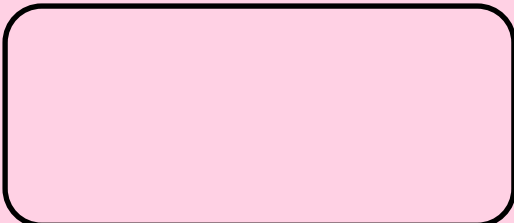


TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
P.O. Box 59067
Chicago, IL 60659
www.touchedbyananimal.org

Happy
Valentine's
Day, Friend!



Valentine,
You've Got
Mail!



You will FEEL the LOVE of being **CHERISHED**
In a **FAMILY** that **CHOOSES** you
Who keeps you **SAFE**, carefree, and content.
You will have all you need
To meet the **CHALLENGES** that surprise you,
To explore the **OPPORTUNITIES**
for playing and growing and learning
So you can sleep again
And dream **BIG CAT DREAMS**
Of chasing and pouncing and capturing
All the **GOOD THINGS** that await
YOUR BRIGHT LIFE.

2021 Baby

Dream, Sweet, Kitten,

Of the newly-born **LIFE** before you.

See the Kaleidoscope of **DELIGHTS**

That will be revealed each in its time

Revel in the **BEAUTY** of surprises.

Unimaginable to you now

Because you have not yet experienced such delights.

Hints of each day's **WONDERS**

Yet to surround you

As you grow and thrive and learn

TO greet **OPPORTUNITIES** and **CHALLENGES.**

GOOD THINGS are coming

For you to **GRASP** and **ENJOY** and **REMEMBER**

In the dreams of your future

Realities to come you cannot yet imagine.

**HEALTHY, HAPPY,
HOPEFUL, AND HELPFUL 2021**

Dear Valentine - - You who have been **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL**, and are on our exclusive limited mailing list because You are one of our **LIFETIME ADOPTORS, RESCUERS, VOLUNTEERS, or DONORS, INTERESTED ASSOCIATES** - - Know that **WE** are thinking of **YOU** with **LOVE** and **GRATITUDE** as we send this Valentine Newsletter!

As I compose these pages, my heart is happy to reflect on 37 years of awesome Valentine stories linking beautiful animals with phenomenal persons in special circumstances made for each other - - **LIFETIME MATCHES** enabled by you, loyal supporters.

Your donations, small and large, directly provide the medical care, food, shelter, and supplies we need to assure our resolute response when asked if we can help in any situation - Can we take a cat, or aid a person needing help to keep a loved companion? **YOU**, and people you tell about our Mission **ARE THE ANSWER.** You are the **TRUE VALENTINES** who bring about the **HAPPY ENDINGS** to **FUTURE LOVE STORIES.**



A TRUE LOVE STORY



And GOD SPOKE

from his special Feline Playground in Heaven: “Human persons think they are my favorite, but I created you, gentle little purrsons, to help them relax, and laugh, and sometimes to understand deeper truths about Me.”

“Now I need a messenger to send to Earth to help someone relay my special love through your steady gaze and reassuring presence, as cats do best.”

Amorous came forward - - “You mean like I did for Eleanor many years ago?”

All the cats in **Heaven**, some who had lived in the little blue house in Chicago where cats are welcomed and respected as **PURRSONS TOO**, remembered this story. Amorous and Amore, homeless kittens, were left in a box on the front porch. When welcomed inside, Amore joined other kittens and let many humans cuddle and console him.

But Amorous knew that he was there with a special Mission, and quickly spotted a smiling lady in a wheelchair — Eleanor. Over the next several months Amorous, the abandoned kitten, and Eleanor, a 90 year old woman carrying in her heart all those years of memories of animals and people to whom she had devoted her life, spent hours gazing into each other’s eyes and hugging as they silently shared their stories. In such encounters Eleanor felt peace with the special message Amorous was carrying from their Creator — that she had lived her life well and would before long, be reunited with all who were dear to her.

Amorous would at times scamper off Eleanor’s lap to eat, drink, and socialize with his feline friends, but return within an hour or so, sometimes to stretch between Eleanor’s shoulders and the back of her wheelchair while they both napped and dreamed.

Now, the home where they all lived, where cats are purrsons too, was a place where people came to adopt rescued cats and kittens from Sister Marijon Binder, founder and organizer of the project. One day Eleanor and Amorous kissed his brother, Amore, “Good bye” as a very nice lady chose the adventurous kitten to take to her home. (**An ASIDE:** Recently, Marijon heard from her that Amore and she lived happily together for almost 20 years!)

Eleanor turned to Sister Marijon and asked with a smile, “Can I adopt Amorous? He doesn’t see ‘old’ or ‘handicapped’. ‘He just sees ME!’

“Of course,” answered Marijon. “You two make an inseparable perfect pair!”



That evening “**TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL**” was on TV when Eleanor declared, “God sometimes sends animals as His angel—messengers. Maybe we should change the name of the organization to **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL** so people will recognize those subtle messages. That name change would show that we care about dogs and other animals too.”

“Good idea!” exclaimed Marijon, and in the next weeks proceeded to file the paperwork, keeping **CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO** as a legal a.k.a (also known as) name.

Christmas and the New Year of 2003 were celebrated a little more quietly as everyone recognized that our dear Eleanor was having a progressively harder time breathing due to COPD, a tired, weakening heart, and lung cancer. Amorous hardly ever left her, and looked at us with sad, knowing eyes.

Sweet Amorous was just six months old when, with no medical reason, he slipped back to **Heaven** in his sleep to find Eleanor.

GOD SPOKE: Welcome! You accomplished your Mission and TOUCHED THE HEARTS of many with My message of personal love and caring!





MORE LOVE STORIES



Donna & Cats

Donna writes, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you taking my 9 cats. They are my life. I really don't know how I'm going to live without them. This has been a terrible year; I am forced to make critical changes since my husband died, losing my home since I cannot pay the mortgage. It really helps to know that they will be well cared for in your home, and possibly be adopted.



Scott & Crackle

Crackle and I, Scott, fell in love with each other while I was working at the home of CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO, where his previous owner surrendered him because of complex medical needs. Upon consultation, our vet and a specialty dental veterinarian decided to pull all his teeth and follow with weekly treatments for this little cat's autoimmune disease. At first, my family and I volunteered to foster Crackle, but he is such a LOVE, such a bundle of JOY, such a COMFORT during this Coronavirus pandemic, that we have now adopted him - OUR TRULY PURRFECT VALENTINE!



Eva & Ronnie

A month and a half after I adopted Ronnie, my apartment building was on fire. Ronnie still kept his distance from me around this time, but that morning when I woke up to the building on fire, he let me pick him up and shove him into his carrier so we could escape. That experience made him grow so close to me, and we learned that he is an amazing cat who, after 7 hours of waiting outside in the rain and smoke, handled the 2-hour car ride to Wisconsin extremely well!

He is so obedient and sweet, and his love is so unconditional! My family absolutely adores him, as do my friends and my boss! People say they have not seen a cuter cat, and they are correct. I am in love with my little baby, and I am so grateful that he is in my life.



Linda, Donald, & Mippy
Linda and Donald Anderson donated in memory of their cat Mippy. "Mippy was a sweet cat, loving, affectionate, and such a good boy! We were lucky to spend the holidays with him and grateful for the 16 1/2 years we shared together. We rescued him and his siblings from our garden in the summer of 2004. The best things that ever grew in our garden! We still have one more of our garden kitties and will treasure the time we have left together."



Sue, Steve, & Bella

Bella was brought to Touched By An Animal in deep mourning since the death of her beloved man. Staff and volunteers tried to cheer her up with lots of love, attention, and treats, but she was inconsolable and refused to eat. Our vet inserted a feeding tube directly into her neck, through which someone would have to feed her every 4 hours, give her 7 different kinds of meds at precise times, and insert water in between. Our Director of Operations, Sue Buzzo, took her home, hoping her family Pitbull, Rottweiler, and Italian Griffin would show their gentle natures. Family members would schedule all those feedings and meds into their working days and nights. Such faithful dedication! Finally, after three months of this routine, Bella began to eat independently, and our vet removed the feeding tube and halted all the meds, making her ready for adoption at Touched By An Animal. But another LOVE STORY was emerging between Steve, Sue's husband, and Bella, who made it clear that they did not want to part. Happy Valentines have adopted each other!



Sarah & Grayson

A series of very fortunate events led me to adopt Grayson. I spotted him at TbyA, and, for me, it was love at first purr combined with his needy squeaks demanding attention. It's been a fun month of learning each other's living patterns, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. They say you don't choose the cat, the cat chooses you, and that's the truth.



"If you open your heart, I'll jump right in!"



HI FRIEND

SPREAD LOVE

UNITY & HOPE

WE ARE GRATEFUL



My Personal LOVE STORIES



include 37 years of countless, unforgettable memories I personally cherish.

I remember the hissing, tiny balls of fur I pulled out from under an elderly neighbor's porch in 1980, warned they and this mother could not possibly be "tamed" since they were at least 5 generations feral. Marge had been feeding this colony and others for years, but now was too arthritic and overwhelmed caring for her disabled husband and son, so tearfully told me she could not continue. "Well, let's just catch them all, tame them, and get them into homes." I quickly replied, knowing nothing about feral cats! Somehow over several weeks' time, we did accomplish this, and cleared not only Marge's colony, but adjoining blocks of our neighborhood. Of course, from that first group, Snowball, with an injured eye, and feisty little Dandy Lion stayed with me for many years of loving.



Someone in the animal rescue community called to ask if I could "just temporarily" house a crippled mother cat and her kittens who needed stability and quiet. The calico mother, Summer, had been a "Hobo cat", riding the rails with her transient human caregiver. Then, when pregnant, left with a "retired hobo" in a basement apartment, where motley critters were being nursed and rehabbed.

One of these was a large owl who could not fly, but Summer saw him as a menacing threat to her newborns. Afflicted with Cerebellar Hyperplasia and Epilepsy, mother cat was nervously watchful and always poised for a fight.

Summer kept her feisty and "generally grumpy", totally independent, disposition throughout her 18 years with me and numerous adventures. She and her petite kitten, Spunky, established themselves as part of my "original keepers" for many Valentine days to come.



I cherish so many personal love stories from these early years of CATS -ARE-PURRRSONS-TOO, and continuing now with my current pals, LuvBug (whose name given by his previous owner says it all!) and Milkshake, who was brought to us traumatized after witnessing his homeless man's death in their sleeping bag. Each needed a quiet assurance before being ready for adoption. As you see in photos, both took up essential positions as my supportive "office staff" and have no intention of leaving me -nor I them!

*I look at their faces,
Each is so unique
So beautiful, so sensitive,
Each a kaleidoscopic piece
Of the Image and likeness of
Our Creator.*



♥ HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY ♥



*24 Karat Gold
I felt soft fur against my leg
I looked to see her precious eyes beg.
"Yes, my 24 karat Gold," I said,
"I know you need to be 'specially fed'
And given fluids and insulin and all your meds.
For fourteen years we've loved each other
Ever since I rescued your wounded mother
And you were crippled, the color of gold
More precious to me than can ever be told."*

