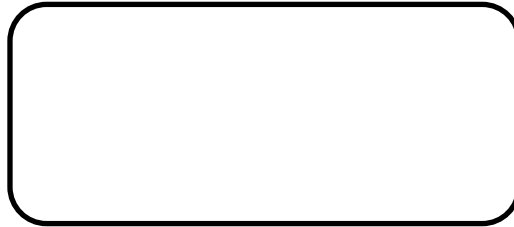




**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO**
P.O. Box 59067
Chicago, IL 60659
www.touchedbyananimal.org
773-728-6336

**In our 40 year journey
we are now hitting a
BIG SPEEDBUMP!**



**Join us for our next Fundraising Benefits
Held at the Irish American Heritage Center
4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630**

Kitty Bingo

**October 30th, 2024
5 p.m. — 8 p.m.**



**Pizza, Pop,
Prizes, Cash Bar**



Thanksgiving Brunch Benefit

**November 24th, 2024
11 a.m. — 3 p.m.**



**Vegetarian Brunch
Raffles, Games, Silent Auction,
Cash Bar, Family Fun**

Soaring costs of vet care bite into budgets

7.9%

increase in price of urban veterinarian services from February 2023 to February 2024.

Economic challenges for owners

As Americans of all income levels care for their cherished animals, they're facing bigger vet bills that can substantially impact their finances and sometimes complicate already wrenching decisions.

91%

of pet owners have endured some level of financial stress because of pet care costs.

Veterinarians are reporting a marked increase over the past several years - especially since the pandemic - in the cost of running a practice, which inevitably gets passed along to clients.

Sticker shock has many owners putting off important treatment

Chicago Tribune | Section 2 | Saturday, July 6, 2024

Charitable giving slides further in '23

Shelters are still feeling the effect, said Taylor Spreitler of the Nashville Humane Association.

"Shelters need help now more than ever," Filer said. "This is a community problem that requires a community solution."

While adopting a pet isn't possible for everyone, Filer said, there are other ways to help - by fostering pets, or by volunteering, at or donating to local shelters.

Effects of pandemic linger for shelters

Animals pay price for overcrowded shelters



Melanee, bottle feeding and loving orphan kittens.



Sue, giving fluids and massaging sweet old Snow.

Dear Friends,

You may notice that this newsletter is not our usual seasonal full color, multi-page chronicle - because we are trying hard to CUT COSTS in every way we can. Some of our friends have asked if they missed our annual Valentine's Day, or Summer newsletters. No, we simply did not send those this year, because the influx of Spring-Summer cats, kittens, people in need, and astonishingly rising prices continue to overwhelm our monthly budget - set by caring and giving donors.

Our monthly Financial Bingo Card is for TBA not a game but a *game-changer*, indeed a *life-changer*.

We cannot call "Timeout," or "Game over," or "See you next time." For some cats, kittens left unannounced on our porch, or desperate persons calling for last chance help, there may not be a next time, or another game player at our table. But we are committed to staying in the game, and with your help, we can continue to make a difference.

The game is not over until the caller leaves. So we're calling on YOU - and your friends, tablemates, players with a *purpose* - not to leave 'til our card is full - til we can hold up a filled MONTHLY EXPENSE LEDGER - BINGO FOR OUR CATS and TBA MISSION!

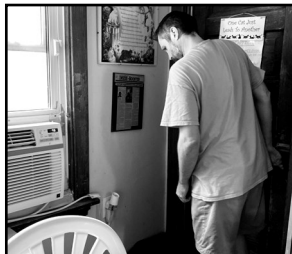
And we invite - we NEED you to come back to our VIRTUAL TBA Table NEXT MONTH, AND THE MONTH AFTER, AND EVERY MONTH - because the kittens, cats, people begging for care for their companion animals, and unavoidable MONTHLY BILLS, CREATE JOLTING SPEEDBUMPS.

We commit to providing a loving home, dedicated staff and volunteers, and health/medical care, but we need your help, friends, and ideas, to pay each month's bills.

We LOVE the cats, kittens, caring people who ARE TOUCHED BY ANIMALS, and with whom we interact every day but WE NEED HELP TO HELP OTHERS.



Mireya & Michael feed cats, & keep the house spotlessly clean.



Cathie, Treasurer, updates cat & financial records



Scott, Graphic Designer and Researcher



Marijon, CEO & Founder, coordinates, communicates





DID YOU KNOW

1

TBA receives daily email announcements from Illinois Animal Rescue Inc. about cats and



kittens scheduled for euthanasia within 24 hours at overcrowded downstate shelters. When we have space and foreseeable funds, we take many of these precious felines, and send volunteers to meet relays of drivers bringing them north.

2

CATS-ARE PURRSONS-TOO/TBA was founded about the same time as the **NO KILL MOVEMENT**, and we have/never will euthanize a cat for lack of space or money, or socialization difficulties or medical expense.



3



Marmaduke & Luis



Doc McStuffins & Cynthia

“A report from Chicago Animal Care and Control shows that in 2023, 3300 cats and dogs were euthanized and more than 30,000 pets entered animal shelters in the greater Chicago area.” (Chicago Tribune 9/6/24)

TBA has been taking part in FIP clinical trials with Anivive Lifescience and medications from Canada, guided by a Facebook group called FIP Warriors, with which our veterinarian linked us. The horrible diagnosis of Feline Infectious Peritonitis always meant immediate euthanasia because of the great suffering it caused. Lifesaving treatment is 84 days of medication, blood testing every 30 days, followed by 84 days of observation --cost between \$500-\$1,000. But the result is a healthy, long living feline friend - and hope for future FIP diagnosed cats as these clinical trials multiply. Doc McStuffins, Frankie, Odie, Marmaduke, Betty Crocker, Yellow and Scamp have all done well on their regimen and declared cured and have been adopted!

4

Once a cat has entered our home, it becomes a cherished member of our feline family, and we always welcome it back if adopter's circumstances change. Its microchip is registered first and irrevocably to TBA so it can be identified anytime, anywhere, and safely returned to us.



5

Chicago has NO LO-COST WELLNESS or URGENT CARE veterinary centers. In fact, when they are full or meet their designated budgets, the larger shelters advise people to try the smaller private organizations to care for and/or surrender your pet. Some people do search for help, or to rehome this beloved, no longer affordable family pet. Sadly, others abandon their cat outside, or in an empty apartment, or give to an unknown person online.



We at TBA help or take as many as we can — but to do so WE NEED HELP. PLEASE HELP US HELP OTHERS.



6

Even as I write this plea, the Chicago Tribune, (September 6, 2024, p 2) reports that the Humane Society of Southern Illinois is **CLOSING** "due to increasing costs and lack of adequate funding."

While we celebrate 40 years, I think with sorrow -- and caution, about several small, home-based rescues, whose wonderful founders, I knew personally, and they asked me to take their last remaining cats. Some early supporters may remember with admiration and gratitude Grace and Elmer Glueck, The Cats' Meow, Joe and Marla Powers, Victorian House, and Shirley Buckner, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

7 Touched By An Animal has, I do not doubt, extremely devoted staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, supporters, donors, and most of all, I believe, God's loving special Blessings, but financial reality is constant worrisome challenge for a Mission that depends entirely on free will donations.



8 We are constantly looking at our expenditures to see if there are any we can cut, reduce, or change sources. Melanee has registered us with an organization that calls us periodically to pick up skids of free cat food and litter when they have it available. We rent a truck, and volunteers load and unload and store whatever we are able to get. Some we share with people who cannot afford pet food.

We apply for grants, competing with much larger organizations, and contact businesses for product and gift card donations for our Benefits.



PLEASE SHARE--ANY OTHER IDEAS OR CONTACTS?

"IT DOES INDEED TAKE A VILLAGE..."



We LOVE the cats, kittens, kind people, and success stories that meet us every day. We TREASURE our dedicated staff, devoted volunteers and faithful donors. We do all we

can, every day, to fulfill our Mission of helping cats and people, and we are pleased and proud of 40 years continuous service.




















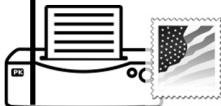




But the HARSH REALITIES OF FINANCIAL SPEEDBUMPS JAR OUR INTENTIONS, OUR RESOLVE. REALITY JOLTS US:





WE NEED YOUR HELP AND THAT OF YOUR FRIENDS, CONTACTS, IDEAS, TO PAY EACH MONTH'S BILLS AND TO CONTINUE TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL'S UNIQUE MISSION.

**This is the
VERY REAL BINGO CARD WE MUST FILL EVERY MONTH.
We depend on YOUR DONOR DOLLARS which we use to
COVER EVERY SQUARE.**

B I N G O

Cat Food 	Kitten Food 	Initial Vet Regimen per feline, microchips, exams, shots	Specialized Vet Care, dentals, blood test, x-rays, etc. 	Emergency Vet Care nights, weekends, holidays
Parasite Treatment 		Litter 	Cleaning Supplies, bleach, mops, etc. 	
Help others in need of vet care, food, litter 	House Repairs Improvements 		Insurances — House, Car, Liability 	Office Supplies & Equipment 
Auto (2006) Maintenance, Gas 	Donor Management Platforms, NFG, Square, Website 	Utilities — Electricity, Gas, Water, Sewer 	Salaries (2 full-time, 6 part-time)	Internet & Phones 
State Fees and Taxes 	Accountant/ Audit Fees, Grant Writer 	Printing & Postage for Newsletters 		Truck Rental 2-4 x / yr. 

Why give monthly? Every month?

- 
 Because TBA is dedicated to helping the cats, kittens, and people who seek help **EVERY MONTH, EVERY DAY.**
- 
 Because TBA is issued a **“NEW BINGO CARD” MONTHLY**, with \$\$ amounts owed all over again, some even increased.
- 
 Because cats and kittens in our home, and people who desperately need help to support their beloved pets, and emergency situations, are **NOT** game pieces. They are **VERY REAL** immediate needs, which cannot be put off until the next month’s “game.”
- 
 Please keep this game with your monthly bills, or with the TBA Calendar of monthly donation envelopes, or enroll in automatic giving through NFG, Zelle, your bank, or Donor Advised Funds.

Our Unique Mission at Work

Touched By An Animal

We help people keep their companion animals.



... for we believe that people TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL are BLESSED with better health, happiness and messages of unconditional, mutually-needed LOVE.



...and we believe that kindness to animals, the Elderly, and each other GENTLES our world.



Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too

We care for fossed & found kiffies in our home.



If you save one purrrson/person you won't save the world, but the world will change for that one purrrson/person.



Touched By An Animal preserves the nurturing bond between people and their companion animals by helping the elderly and others maintain this loving relationship and by providing lifetime homes for cats, when needed, in our home, where Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too.



How is our Mission "UNIQUE"?

Touched By An Animal is not first an Animal Shelter or a Rescue. It was founded to — and still does — help people keep their beloved pets for mutual comfort, healing, companionship, so people in health, financial, or circumstantial needs do not have to permanently surrender a furry family member to a shelter.

Every cat has a unique story. Every person who brings one to us does also. We embrace these, and we like to share in conversations with visitors, newsletters, website, social media.

Does TBA do the work that earns your support? If so, **ENABLE us NOW, and MONTHLY**, to continue our **UNIQUE MISSION**.



SPREAD THE WORD-SHARE OUR STORIES, NEWSLETTERS, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND EMAILS

JOIN OUR TEAM – Volunteer, Adopt, Foster, Solicit Prizes and Sponsors.



"It takes a village".

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We are a 501-C-3 Tax Exempt
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E.I.N. #36-4204496

**Scan
QR Code To Donate**

