

**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL
CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO**

**P.O. Box 59067
Chicago, IL 60659**

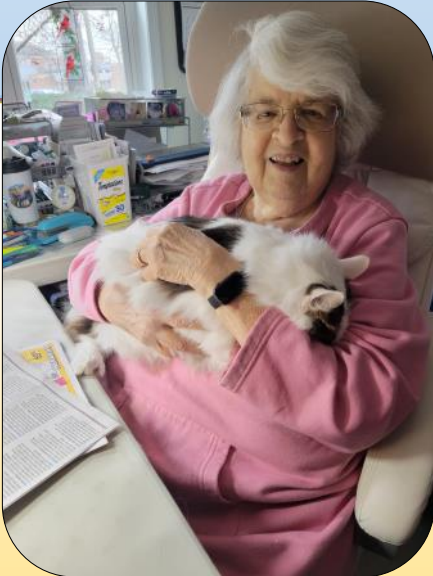


We are bringing you this bouquet with LOVE and our 2024 PLANS, RESOLUTIONS, and HOPES.

FROM THE DESK OF MARIJON & HER HELPERS, LUVBUG & MILKSHAKE

Well, HELLO AGAIN!

We are **LUVBUG** and **MILKSHAKE**, your **SNOOPY SCRIBES** who live with Marijon in Deerfield where the 3 of us take care of each other.



MEOUWY MERCI to our good friends who commented on the “from our purring hearts” New Year’s/Christmas letter we sent while Marijon was in the hospital. So many of you responded with kind notes, lovely cards, and even donations, that we want to help write this **VALENTINE LETTER** loaded with **APPRECIATION, LOVE, and HOPEFUL PLANS** for 2024 kittens, cats, and good people who need help.

Greetings to our pals who live at our little blue house on Berwyn Ave!

WE HAVE **JUST ONE NEW YEAR RESOLUTION**
TO **LOVE AND TO BE LOVED**



Kiki



Frankenberry



Moonstone



Orange



Peanut

Meet us and more of our friends at our home or
at www.touchedbyananimal.org



Dior



Cappuccino



Booberry

We need **YOUR HELP** to survive the **WINTER BLUES**
with so many cats and Spring kittens surely to come!



Cotton



Sapphire & Gem



Rescued Kittens



**Vanda,
Blue & Green**



Onyx



Cappuccino



**Bobbie &
Shamrock**

In Winter '24 we had our electrical and plumbing checked and upgraded. Our Winter and Spring '24 operational needs/plans/hopes are:

- ✂ (1) Replace 1993 **VINYL SHEET FLOORING** throughout the house.
- 🔨 (2) Paint **FRONT PORCH** replacing some boards.
- 🚗 (3) Our **2005 MINIVAN** has served well for 20 years, but now needs \$2,600 winterizing upkeep (battery, alternator, struts, brakes, tires, etc).



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF THESE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES?



Cordelia's sister gave us a generous memorial donation in memory of her sister to repair and winterize the greenhouse. The cats now have a secure environment use all year round.

This thoughtful and very generous improvement changes the stressful winter dynamics of in-house overcrowding, especially for previously outdoor not-so-social cats.



**Scan
QR Code
To Donate**



Can YOU sponsor, adopt, or foster one of these sweet valentines?



Jambalaya



Churchill



Doodles



Oodles



Dracula



Mercury

Melanee can show you some of the BEAUTIFUL, UNIQUELY LOVING FELINE VALENTINES eager to share their special love with you when you visit our home or website.

Such beauties, such stories, such reasons why Touched By An Animal is glad to be here for them, such VALENTINE LOVE to share!

Will YOU be our VALENTINE AND SEND A GIFT TO HELP SUPPORT OUR LIVES?

More Beauties Arrive Daily!

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 veterinary 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 **\$350 MINIMUM** for each new feline rescue.

We know that you would not 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.



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

Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too, P.O. Box 59067, Chicago IL 60659 ☎ (773) 728-6336

🌐 www.touchedbyananimal.org 📧 tba@touchedbyananimal.org

Stories of Love, Hope, and Compassion Make Sweet Valentines!



Socks & Shoes

A young woman got Socks and Shoes when they were little kittens from a friend. They were full of energy and sweetness. But now that they have grown and are 7 months, she decided she no longer wanted them because they are getting to be adults. She only likes "babies." Socks and Shoes are very confused as to why they were abandoned and wondering what they did wrong. They are two of the most loving kittens and we are trying to reassure them that they will get a loving home soon!

BLT and PBJ are your typical silly siblings. They love to wrestle and play. During a play session, PBJ bit BLT in the arm. Unfortunately it became an abscess and required several trips to the vet for draining and irrigation and medications. He is still on cage rest but we know he will make a full recovery and be a wonderful valentine for someone special!



BLT



Shamrock

A disabled gentleman with Multiple Sclerosis was evicted from his apartment after his caregiver moved in to help. He had no one to help him with his cat until a social worker suggested TBA. We are temporarily boarding Shamrock while the gentleman looks for affordable housing.

Raven adopted Smokey from another shelter in 2016 and loves her dearly. 2023 was a rough year where Raven lost her job and then her apartment. We were able to take in Smokey but a trip to the vet found her teeth were infected and inflamed and required extensive surgery. With your donations we took care of her teeth and now we are making her comfortable while she recovers.



Smokey

TOUGH DECISIONS REQUIRE TOUGH LOVE & TOUGH FAITH to face TOUGH MEDICAL EXPENSES

Last November a litter of very young orphan kittens was brought to us, their survival chancy at best without Mother cat's colostrum and nurturing. Melanee and family take such little ones home overnight for bottle feeding every 3 hours, and to the incubator in her office during days.

One kitten in particular stood out as especially spunky, sweet, and loving people. She was immediately adopted, but in staying with us until her full kitten vet care protocol would be completed at 12 weeks.

Recently, little Hermoine started vomiting every time she ate. Our vet did X-rays and an exploratory surgery looking for an obstruction, but not finding one, advised us to takt the kitten to Med Vet ER.

Invoice so far: \$1,149

This is when our TOUGH LOVE and TOUGH FAITH in our MONTHLY DONORS caused me to say YES to charging the required **\$4000** estimate to transfer her to Med Vet where a specialist with a scope put a camera down her throat. Her esophagus had a narrowing which was not allowing food to pass. They inserted a ballon and widened her esophagus from 4mm to 10mm. As soon as she woke up from surgery, she couldn't wait to eat and devoured several mushy bowls of food! The vets expect her to make a full recovery and live a long and happy life!

We are thrilled, as are our staff, volunteers, vets, and Hermione's adopter, to know that TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL is here for such cats' lives because our DONOR FRIENDS give with TOUGH GENEROSITY, believing that CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO whose lives are invaluable.

Also, you should know that, when our feline population is low, and our finances allow, we do accept cats & kittens who are on death row in overcrowded downstate shelters. A TOUGH CALL indeed, and each time made with TOUGH FAITH in God and in His animal – loving people who GIVE with GENEROUS TOUGH LOVE.

Goodbye with Love

To Mickey, a "please don't touch me" quiet cat who has lived with us for 10 years, brought from Texas as a "last wish" of a dear lady who made her farm into a safe rescue haven for many animals.

On a recent morning one of our Saturday staff called to report that Mickey was breathing with difficulty, so a volunteer was asked to bring him to Med Vet ER where an ultrasound, blood-work, and exam revealed congestive heart failure & likely cancer.

Melanee, Marijon, and Saturday staff knew that sweet Mickey would HATE being caged, and given daily meds, fluids, & more vet trips for continuing care.

This was clearly a cat for whom gentle euthanasia was the merciful decision – one we hate to make, with heavy heart and loving memories of Mickey a longtime content member of our CATS-ARE-PURRSONS-TOO family and houseguest "on his own terms."



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I have made out my WILL. Have you secured yours?

Your Forever Love Legacy

Remember the TOUCH of your beloved animal when you plan your Will, Estate, Trust, or Endowment.

Your future gift can help **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, INC.** continue our Mission ad multos annos and leave a legacy of **FOREVER LOVE STORIES** to be told – in your name and memory – long after those of your lifetime.

Your loving gift will honor that very special bond between a human and companion animal recognized only by those who have shared it.

Your attorney or financial advisor can help you plan such a legacy gift toward the Mission of **TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, INC.**

If your beloved companion animal needs lifetime care as part of your legacy, please discuss this with us in advance.

REMEMBER



We host, educate & provide opportunities for many groups to interact with our felines in our home.

Northwestern College Volunteers

Our home welcomed these sorority members for one of their meetings. The cats love it when so many people visit.

Our staff welcomes school church, and social groups. Call or E-mail us if interested.



Douglas Center

Once a week, we have friends from the Douglas Center visit and volunteer. This Nonprofit helps people with developmental and intellectual challenges to function independently. Staff reports that many of their clients have been helped by our loving felines. These people have come out of their shells and are more sociable while receiving the nurturing of our staff, volunteers, and our cats. Our cats can help to heal people in many ways, including from mental health challenges and past trauma.

Picture Source: The Douglas Center FB Page



Our cats & kittens love visitors — they can practice their hospitality & social skills!

We invite YOU to our continuing 40th Anniversary Ruby Red Celebration

The Ruby gemstone symbolizes LOVE, PASSION, SUCCESS –
HALLMARKS of OUR Mission through the years!



Our new venue
The Irish Heritage Center



Friends and Volunteers
Deborah & Ellen



Julia a TBA Board Member &
Melanee, Executive Director



Lily & Friend,
Teen Volunteers



Thank You, Mary Ann and others,
for making baskets for silent
auction & contributing raffle items.

Sunday, May 19th, 2024
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Irish Heritage Center
4626 N Knox Ave,
Chicago, IL 60630

Delicious vegetarian brunch
Benefit, with vegan options,
Gifts—Raffles—
Silent Auction—Prizes
Advanced tickets required.
See TBA website or
call 773-728-6336.



Wonderful
items
donated for
our raffle.

Invitations and reservation cards will come in April and on
our website: www.touchedbyananimal.org
Early Bird Advanced Tickets are very helpful to our planners.
Tables of 8, 10, 12, specials — bring new animal-loving guests.
Donations welcome: themed gift baskets, empty baskets, and
new items for raffles, gift cards.
We are also grateful for helpers to set up and take down.
🐾 Call Sue Buzzo at TBA if you can help.

It is all for the cats
and Touched by an
Animal's Mission —
help us to help others!