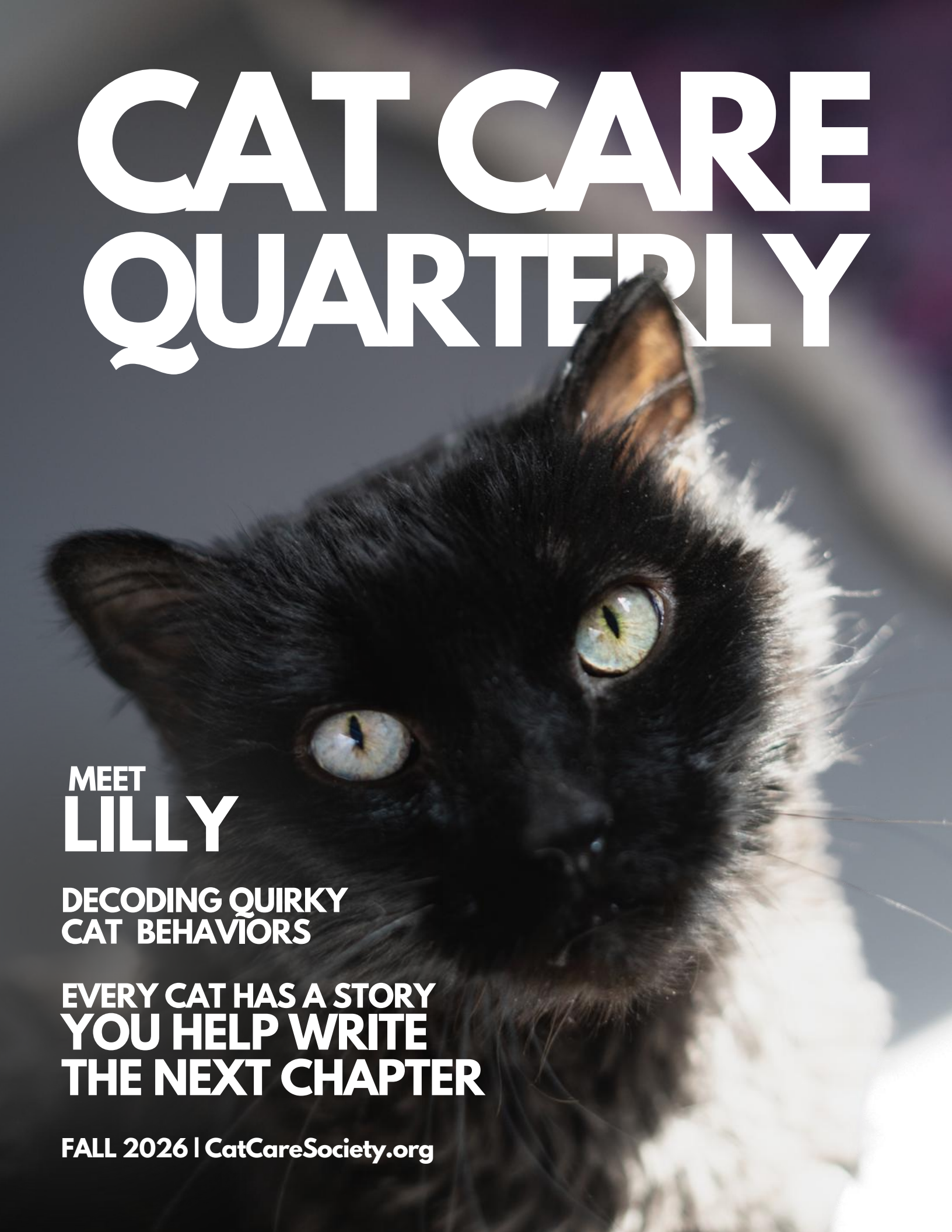
CAT CARE QUARTERLY



MEET
LILLY

DECODING QUIRKY
CAT BEHAVIORS

EVERY CAT HAS A STORY
YOU HELP WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER

FALL 2026 | CatCareSociety.org

Upcoming Events

November

15 | CatFest Denver
at the National Western Complex

21 | Cats on Mats: Shelter Yoga
at Cat Care Society

December

05 | Santa Paws: Thrift Sale & Holiday Market
at Cat Care Society

08 | Colorado Gives Day
Online day of giving

January

23 | Free Seminar: Q&A with a Cat Behaviorist
at Cat Care Society

February

13-27 | Art from the Heart
Online Art Auction

27 | Free Seminar: Successful Cat Introductions
at Cat Care Society

Get full details, buy tickets, and find more events at **catcaresociety.org/events**

Follow Us

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From the Executive Director

45 years of saying yes to the cats nobody else could take.

This year marks Cat Care Society's 45th anniversary. It's an incredible milestone and a testament to our founders, Dr. Linda East and Lynn Rowe; our first Executive Director, Kathy Macklem Hill, who served for 20 years; and the many board members, volunteers, donors, and staff who have valued and supported the work of CCS.

Cat Care Society serves a unique need in the Colorado animal welfare community. We've become known as the place that other shelters can call when a cat needs more than they can give — cats with medical conditions, injuries, or behavioral needs that require time, expertise, and resources. Our medical and behavior experts compassionately treat and prepare them for their next chapter. We don't shy away from complicated cases. In fact, the complex cases often become some of our favorite kitties, and our team thrives on finding creative solutions to support cats that might not have a chance otherwise.

One of these special cats is Dun Dun, an FIV+ kitty from a partner shelter, who ended up with more than one set of initials next to his name. You'll see his story on the page to the right.

As a nonprofit shelter, we are 100% donor-funded. Donations fund the surgeries, medications, specialists, and behavior work that turn a hard case into a happy ending.

Colorado Gives Day is coming up on December 8, and early giving is open now. This event is the largest single day of giving for Cat Care Society each year and accounts for 10% of our annual budget.

Dun Dun's story is the first of six we're sharing this giving season, each about a cat who started their second chapter at Cat Care Society. I encourage you to follow our email, social media, or website to read them all.

Because every cat has a story to tell, and your donations help us write their next chapter. Whether you donate online or by check, your gift this season will support more Colorado cats in need.

For 45 years, donors like you have made it possible for us to say yes to the cats nobody else could take. Thank you for helping us continue to say yes.

-EC Michaels, *Executive Director*





Dun Dun and Pat

If you follow CCS on social media, you may recognize Dun Dun. A video of him and our Facilities Supervisor, Pat, went viral. **What the video didn't show is the chapter that came next.**

Dun Dun arrived at CCS after being diagnosed with FIV+. He was dealing with ear infections, repeated colds, and painful inflammation. Our team treated his infections and removed the teeth that were causing him pain. Once he felt better, his personality came shining through.

The Cat Distribution System at Work

Pat spends his days at CCS surrounded by cats. Plenty of them are charming. But Dun Dun made an immediate connection with Pat in one of our regular staff meetings.

That's the moment the viral video captured: a senior cat who knew exactly who he wanted. Pat met with our medical team who talked through his FIV+ diagnosis, chronic inflammation, and bloodwork that showed early signs of possible future medical complications. **Feeling prepared to take on his long term care, Pat took Dun Dun home.**

The Hardest Chapter

Less than a month later, Pat noticed Dun Dun was losing weight, and his urine was unusually dark. **Dun Dun had developed feline infectious peritonitis (FIP).**

That meant 12 weeks of daily medication, followed by a 90-day observation to ensure the disease would stay in remission. The first weeks were frightening. **Dun Dun was weak, unsteady on his feet, and had tremors.** But then he turned a corner. He started eating well and found his balance again.

Through months of treatment and observation, Pat stayed in his corner.

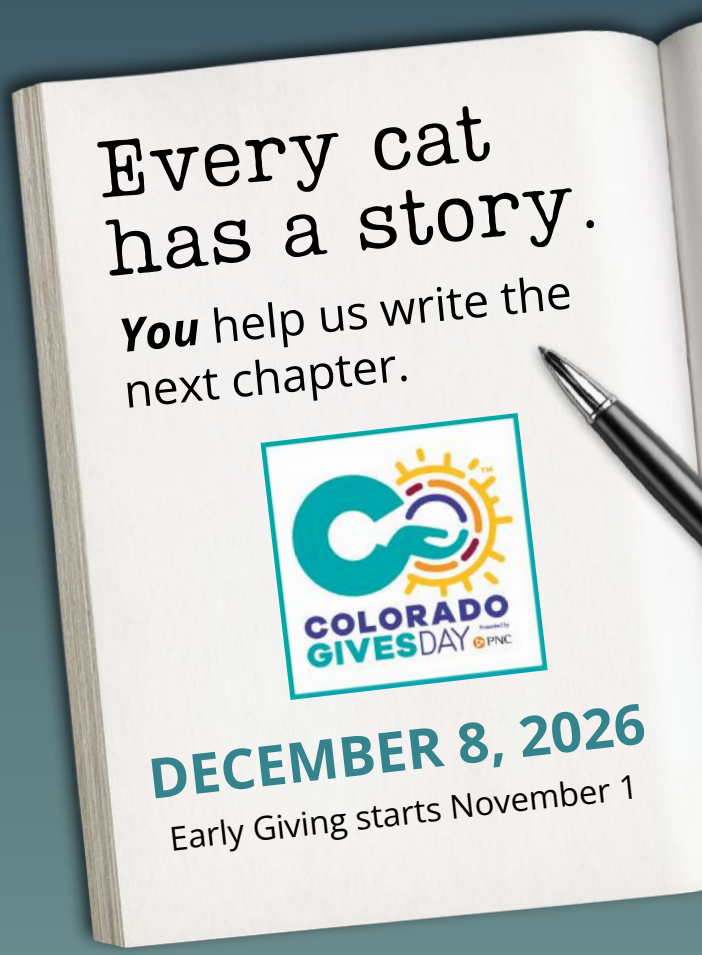
The Story Isn't Over

It's been 5 months since completing FIP protocol, and today Dun Dun is thriving. **He's back to a healthy weight, his coat is shiny, and there are no signs of recurring FIP.**

For 45 years, Cat Care Society has stood by cats like Dun Dun and adopters like Pat, just like our supporters have stood by us.

Your donation this Colorado Gives Day helps us write the next chapter for a Colorado cat in need.

Scan the QR Code or visit catcaresociety.org/donate



Meet **Lilly**

Lilly was surrendered to Cat Care Society nearly a year and a half ago after her previous owner passed away. This 12-year-old girl needs a patient person who knows how to respect her boundaries, though she is the sweetest and most playful senior kitty you'll meet! Lilly blossomed while in foster but isn't a fan of the shelter and will thrive in a home environment where she can truly be herself. She loves to hang on the catio when it's nice out, playing with wand toys, and appreciates chin scratches when they are on her terms!

Lilly's ideal home would be one where she can be the only pet in the home and with a good adopter who can accommodate all of her medical needs which CCS staff will be more than willing to go over with any potential adopters to ensure all parties are set up for success!



Lilly has spent over **500** days in shelter care.

Visit catcaresociety.org to fill out an application.

Decoding Quirky Cat Behaviors

By Beth Dokolosa

Cats add love, companionship, and a sense of comfort to our lives. They also add a lot of whimsy, silliness, and charm through their everyday behaviors and natural instincts. This article highlights common quirky behaviors cats exhibit and explains why they do them. It also discusses one common behavior that can be harmful to your cat's health and may require medical attention or lifestyle changes.

Sleeping inside tiny boxes and other small spaces: Tight and enclosed spaces provide warmth, reduce visual exposure, and help cats feel protected against potential threats. Research has shown that access to boxes can reduce stress and improve adaptation when cats enter unfamiliar environments, such as shelters or new homes. This is one of the reasons CCS provides a variety of bed and hiding options for cats in our care.

Head-butting (bunting) people and household objects: When a cat presses or rubs its face against you or objects around your home, it's depositing facial pheromones. This scent-marking behavior helps create a familiar, safe environment and also serves as a social bonding behavior toward trusted individuals. It's recommended to rotate cleaning your cat's bedding and your cat's favorite areas around the home so that some items and spaces retain the cat's scent for continuity and to minimize stress. Bunting can also indicate that your cat wants human engagement, such as pets, treats, or other favorite interaction. Additionally, a cat's reliance on chemical and olfactory information is why synthetic pheromone products (like Feliway) can work so well in having a calming effect for cats in stressful or unfamiliar situations.

In most areas of CCS, we spot-clean daily and deep-clean weekly to help preserve the cats' familiar scents on bedding and furniture they've rubbed their faces against. This reduces stress and allows them to feel safe and comfortable.

Bringing you "gifts": If your cat brings you mice, toys, or other prizes, they may be trying to teach you how to hunt. Mother cats, in particular, are known to bring dead or weakened prey to their offspring so they can practice their hunting skills. When cats bring humans mice or toys, they may be practicing their instinctive social behavior and trying to teach us to hunt. Another supported explanation is that cats instinctively bring their prey to a secure location before consuming it or interacting with it, and they feel safest around you—what an honor!

Getting "the zoomies": While the technical term is "frenetic random activity periods" (FRAPs), most cat owners know the energetic sprints cats get after periods of rest or using the litter box simply as the zoomies. This activity helps them expend accumulated energy, similar to wild cats that experience long stretches of rest followed by brief, intense hunting intervals. Indoor cats may express this natural activity pattern, especially at dawn and dusk, when they are naturally most active. If your cat has marathon zoomies that last longer than a few minutes and interrupt your sleep, try adding more playtime in the evenings, around an hour before your bedtime, to help burn extra energy.

Slow blinking with their humans: Slow blinking, which includes narrowing their eyes and half-way closing their eyes, is a way that cats communicate positive feelings towards a human. It's a way for them to say, "I feel comfortable around you, and I am not a threat." Importantly, research shows that cats are responsive when humans initiate slow blinking, which can help them relax in new or stressful situations. Although cats sometimes slow blink with other cats, they primarily rely on other body language and scents to communicate, making slow blinking extra special to the human-cat bond.

Chewing on non-food items like plastic, hair ties, cat litter, and shoelaces: While many kittens do this and often outgrow it, some cats develop or continue their fascination and mastication of household objects into adulthood, with plastic being the most commonly reported. This condition of eating non-food items is called pica, and different factors can contribute to this potentially harmful behavior. Cats may do it out of boredom or to express their natural hunting instincts. Additionally, research shows that cats who are free-fed (vs. scheduled feeding) are less likely to develop pica. Stress, underlying gastrointestinal issues, anemia, dental pain, and genetics—including being an Oriental breed of cat—are also possible reasons a cat develops pica.

Understanding the "why" behind these behaviors isn't just fun trivia, it can also help you improve communication with your cat, create an environment that supports their wellbeing, and identify when a behavior may be a health concern that needs further investigation. When a cat zooms across the room, brings you a favorite toy, or gives you a little head bunt, they're simply being themselves, and each moment is a special opportunity to strengthen the bond you share.



CCS SPOT LIGHT

Volunteer: **Jane**

Jane began fostering with Cat Care Society in May 2025. With previous fostering experience, she jumped straight in with a litter of 4 bottle baby kittens, and has fostered 33 kittens and cats for CCS to date. In addition to her work caring for some of our tiniest feline friends, she supports the shelter with her handweaving skills by donating beautiful, intricate pieces to CCS auctions, and enjoys sharing the mission of CCS at community events.

Staff: **Sonia**

Sonia joined Cat Care Society in 2023 as the Foster and Behavior Program Supervisor. She brings a background in animal behavior, experience as a large carnivore zookeeper, and in 2026 became a Certified Shelter Cat Behavior Consultant. Sonia created CCS's behavior and enrichment program and coordinated our ongoing enrichment partnership with KONG. She also oversees the foster program, managing foster onboarding, training, and animal placements. Through positive reinforcement, environmental enrichment, training, and socialization, Sonia works to improve the overall well-being and adoptability of all CCS cats.

"What I love most about working at Cat Care Society is being able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of cats while helping people better understand their needs and behaviors. I love empowering adopters, volunteers, and staff with the knowledge and tools to build positive relationships with cats through compassion, enrichment, and positive reinforcement. It's rewarding to be part of a team that works together to help every cat feel safe, thrive, and find their best chance at a happy life."



GIFTS MADE WITH LOVE ♥ APRIL - JUNE 2026

Thanks to everyone who has made donations ***in honor of or in memory of*** someone special!
Gifts not listed here will be credited in the next issue. Please send corrections or questions to philanthropy@catcaresociety.org.

FROM	IN HONOR OF
Alex Schubert	Binx
Amy Marsh	Emma & Tangerine
Andrew Rauch	Elise
Angela Zadro	Binky Boo & Sir Runtly
Anna E Baron	Havana, Phoenix & Misha
Anna Szakats	Whiskey & Wiggles <3
Barbara Rose	Peter & Lesley
Becky Killian-Willis	Beth Killian
Beth Smart	Phebe Delaney
Carol Dame	Kiki
Catherine J Mendoza	Joan Tymkowych
Cheryl Wahlheim	Koosh & Penny Lane
Dee Pierce	Onyx Blackheart Pierce
Denise Mullis	Arlene Pickets
Edward A Wood-Prince	Marina Wood-Prince
Elanna Belanger	Syra
Elizabeth Sullivan	Emmy
Geraldine Paulison	Sam
Glenda L Hower	all black kittykats! <3
Harriet Weisenthal	Maria Bachica
Jackie Hoke & David Gitelman	the best species in the universe -->the cat!
Jane Hedlund	Maverick
Janelle Syverson	Miss Kitty
Janet Boom	Misty
Janet Fletcher	all my kitties
Janice Bakker & Thomas C Miller	Romeo
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Joan VanDeberg	Sweet Pete
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Kyle Laymon	Claudia, Bernie & Delilah
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Linda Boon	Mr. Picklez
Linda Schutter	Jasmine, Tiki, Peanut, Newman, Pixel & Squirrel
Mandy Ellis	Beth D
Mark and Carol Frohardt	Cow
Mary Vargas	Lady Dixon
Maureen Parker	Maureen Parker
Megan M Burd	Mojo Cat
Melissa J Flores	Stevie Knicks
Melissa Krug	Spock & Chance
Michael and Joyce Gutierrez	our precious Kobe who adopted us from CCS in 2008 & is going strong at 18
Michele D Hadley	Lisa Terwilleger
Michelle Farrell	Molly Farrell
mluckie8 A Luckie	Lucky, Amelia, & Turbo
Nancy Wilcox	Katie & Grace
Naomi Lugo	For Goldie & Kay N.
Patricia Billinger	For Goldie & Kay N.
Phyllis & David Saphra	Rachelle Naishtut
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Rebecca Trujillo	Hiram & Jessica DeLuna
Robert Campbell & Leslie Woodruff	Zoe & Mia
Rodolfo Sosa Cordero Camacho	Frida Gato
Sandra Guidry	Fiona my sweet cat
Sarah Shoemaker	Maggie Petray
Sarah Tip Muckerman	Neo & Power
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Susan Gurry & Neal Michaels	EC Michaels
Susan J McCaffery	Pumpkin
Tamar Beaman	Rhonda Beaman
Trevor Alyn and Sarah Makarechian	All my kitties past & present
Vishal Dhere	Jaya
Wayne & Sharon M Lindimore	Cheeto
Wendy Pomeranz	Lindsay Hoffman

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Alice Dragoon-English	Chumba
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Dennis Burdick	Penny Burdick
Diana & Max Hills	Noisy & Snow
Diane Byrd	Bobby Byrd
Diane Drab	Charlie
Diane M Huber	Tajj, Piper, Jack, Jordan, Scout, & Kitty
Donna J Vinson	and in honor of all cats!
Elizabeth and Brian Zwinak	Our beloved kitties in Heaven
Elizabeth Dymkowski	Lala, Amy & Samantha
Erin Ellebracht	Cookie & Harley
Eve Tallon	Julianna
Francine Koch	Sande Fitzpatrick
Geoffrey H Peck	DeeDee
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James and Sharon Fortino	Bella
Janice Bakker & Thomas C Miller	Carlo
Janice Bakker & Thomas C Miller	Sparky. A total goofball, but we loved him.
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Janna Gray	Marble
Jason Howard	Melvin
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Juliana Okulski & Jan Laitos	Scout the wonder cat
Kaloea Dawn Kizzar	Mr. Sox
Karen Aho	Donna Pohlmann
Karen Zoltenko	Meatloaf
Kari Sanders	Chloe, Cirrus, Braveheart, Muggins, & Ziggy
Karin Berglund	Asher
Kathleen J Carr	Ivan
Kathryn Nyquist	Richard A & Irene M (Cote) Nyquist
Katie Andreasen	Baby Boy Jack
Kay Kishline	45 Years of loving cat partners
Kelly Costello	Clyde
Kenneth Schramm	Bob Kauffman
Kevin Ripper	Rosa
Kim Haller	Maryann Haller
Kirsten Eastwood	Loki
Kirsten R McAdoo	Oreo
Kristopher Kolman	Lana Kolman
Larry A Frederiksen	BK
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Linda & Ted Drescher	Sarastro
Linda J Horn	Chick-a-Dee
Louis & Lynda Surles	Smoky, Slater & Thomas
M'Lou Greene	Arlene Pickett "Woodstock
MacKennea Broyles	Our sweet cat, Annie, who brought light to our life for three wonderful years despite her complex medical needs. We miss you, sweet girl.
Maiorani-Stuart Family Fund	Our beautiful mom, Barb Stuart
Marcia Ann Ketchum	Nancy Ketchum-Marks
Margaret Phillips	Meatloaf & Ronald
Marsha Crest	Maggie
Martha Cross	My cat Sabrina (Cat Care Rescue)
Mary J Linke	Sally
Matthew Kepler	Freya, Fosse, & Saghira. Part of the family forever.
Michael and Sharon McGinnis	Moose
Michael L Smith	all my cats!
Mike and Twila Shyrock	Sumpy & In honor of Cubby
Miriam Carney	Ilene Kamsler
Nicole Tennant	Sasha & Daven
Pamela Kaiser	Simon & Bailey
Patricia Curtin	Helen Curtin
Patricia J George	all our adopted strays
Paula A Cifka	Bennie, Sweetie, Liza Jane
Peter Dupree	Ceres Harner
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Ralph Zerfas	Punkin
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Rose Community Foundation	Clyde
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Sarah A Russell	Maggie, Marco, Geno, Waif & Sable
Sarah E Porter	all of them
Sarah Steinberg & James Malatchi	Athena & Zeke
Sharon Maimon	Tater Tot
Sheila Ann Long	Daryl Carlson
Sheila Myers	Brandon
Stephen & Julianne Pacetti	Heidi & Tucker
Susan B Silverman	Onyx & Puurl
Susan M Corbeil	Penny
Susan M Fernande	My parents & my brother, with love
Susan Martel	Jeter
Susanne M Kobs	Ken Kobs AKA Best Cat Daddy EVER
Suzanne R & William F Muller	Nitey
Theresa Worden	Our sweet girl, Nutmeg
Valerie Lavay-Borris	Luna & Sasha
Vicki Fragasso	Taylor
Virginia Higgins	Sande Fitzpatrick

FROM	ON BEHALF OF
Claire F Long	Krystina & Leck Genco (Doris & David's cats)
Constance E Miller	Ollie
Gary and Kristin Hathaway	Mr. Pibbets & Tempest
Matthew Hammell	Guinness, the sweetest cat
Natalie Sanderson & Lyle Hays	Heidi Evans
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To be a safe and enriching place for all cats on their journey to a loving home. We do this by providing compassionate care, shelter, adoption services and community engagement.

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