



# cat depot connection

A Rescue, Adoption, Education and Resource Center



2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234 • [info@catdepot.org](mailto:info@catdepot.org) • [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org) • 941.366.2404 Issue 11 • Fall 2010

## Along Came Cindy . . .

She sat motionless with no hint of playfulness, gazing blankly at nothing in particular. There was no response to the cooing voice and gentle hand that stroked her soft fur. Cindy did not mingle, nor did she solicit attention from the many visitors who came her way. Instead, she sat quietly and slowly ate and ate.



*Cindy relaxes after her walk . . . waiting patiently for her forever home*

Cindy was already a big girl and her lack of exercise and ability to free-feed did nothing to enhance her health. But it was her listless demeanor and eventual shaking of her head that led a veterinary technician to take her to the vet.

An ear infection in both ears was so severe that surgery was the only cure. The removal of the middle ear was necessary to eliminate Cindy's pain. Fortunately, Cindy came through the surgery like a champ. Her pain was gone, but she was faced with a new challenge - that of being deaf.

One might think that a deaf cat would be nervous or confused, but not Cindy. She was happy! Pain free, she began to act younger, and made several attempts at play. It was during one of her play sessions that a staff member decided to put a harness on Cindy and walk her around the facility.

Immediately, Cindy was queen for the day! This diva not only walked, she appeared to be on a mission to see the entire building as she visited with other cats and wandered into work areas to chat with staff. Pausing in the feeding area, she was given a treat; since she's a food-loving cat, it was a stop she was glad to make.

Every day now, Cindy waits at the gate of her pod for someone to take her on a walk. Adults and children visit daily and, using hand signals, work with Cindy and take her around the facility, stopping for a treat of course.

Due to her exercise routine, Cindy has graduated from the Chubby Cat Pod into a suite where she can eat normally. To keep her girlie figure, she hopes her adopter enjoys walking and can overlook her hearing loss. Verbal conversation isn't a requirement. . . just love.

Due to her special needs, Cindy is a Guardian Angel Cat. See her at [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org), "Support the cats."



*Cindy and her friend Jeff Donahue take a walk around Cat Depot*

**Support Our Mission • Give the Gift of Membership!**

## Dot Cat's Serenity Tips



Do you ever wonder why your cat looks so at peace when he falls asleep in a patch of sunlight on your lanai? To relax, cats don't need a massage, anti-anxiety medication or a feline retreat. Instead, thinking like a cat can decrease your stress and visits to your psychotherapist.

According to Robert L. Leahy, director of the American Institute for Cognitive Therapy, author of many articles and books on human cognition, and a cat owner and admirer, cats have an idealistic attitude and we could learn a lot from them. The main reason for their cognitive success is that, unlike human beings, cats don't ruminate or worry. One of the reasons cats aren't anxious or worried is that it takes a lot of thinking to be neurotic. Worrying requires the cognitive ability to anticipate what will happen in the future, far beyond the next few seconds. Cats don't care if others like them or if their waistlines are growing. Since they don't have a busy schedule, or one at all, they don't need a "cat-berry" to keep them on time, organized or worry free.



*American Shorthair, Tina, napping*

As a follower of Darwinism, Dr. Leahy notes that for millions of years, humans have been evolving and changing continually. Humans, he suggests, are not well adapted and their constant need to alter themselves, to come up with new models of behavior, suggests that they are not happy. They worry, get depressed, seek out psychotherapy and, in extreme cases, they commit suicide. Does any of this sound like the behavior of a cat in your home? Probably not!

Unlike humans, cats haven't changed that much in the past 1,000 years. What does change is humans?

perception of them. Over the course of human history, cats have been alternately worshipped and thought to be satanic, but through it all, they have remained aloof, calm, unassuming and self-assured.

So, how have cats maintained this serene state of mind? We can't be sure, but their thought process probably consists of things like "This feels good, I want that" or "This doesn't feel good, forget it!" Cats are hedonists: They sleep most of the time, they prefer your food to theirs, and if they don't like something, they are quick to let us know — with a glare, a distressed look or a meow. Their likes or dislikes, unlike ours, are generally simple and direct. No worries to complicate things.

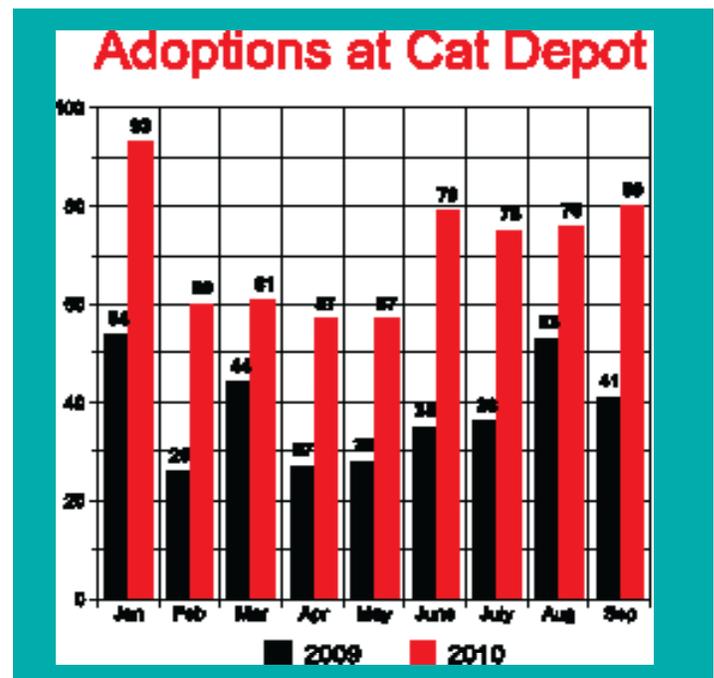
Being hedonistic requires constant replenishment of what is considered pleasurable, so cats are always focused on finding the next thing that will satisfy them. A cat looks at the world like it's a tasting menu: "I like that. I don't like that." Period. How liberating a thought process!

So, next time you're feeling stressed, stop, look and listen closely to your cat. He may have achieved inner peace without breaking a sweat. Is that where the term "cool cat" came from?



*Oliver can nap just about anywhere*

**DOT CAT**



## A Grey Matter

Thousands of cats have come and gone at our facility, but none is as deserving as the infamous Mrs. Grey.



*At twelve years old, Mrs. Grey wears her sensible shoes*

This old girl is a legend, an institution, but no one is more in need of retirement than her. And an anonymous donor has come forward who is willing to pay for her food stamps for the first year of her adoption.

Mrs. Grey is a sweet senior who spends her days looking out the window, watching the world go by.

Although she's been adopted before, she is now in need of a quieter home where she will be treasured. Occasionally, she enjoys kicking off her sensible shoes and putting on her dancing slippers, but she promises not to abuse her curfew.

Give Mrs. Grey the opportunity of a lifetime: you and a forever home. Please call Michelle at 941.366.2404.

## Save These Dates!

- November 3 – Welcome Center/Retail Shop Training
- November 4 – Bottle Feeding Training
- November 13 – Pawpurr's Ball
- Nov. 20-21 – American Humane Association Presents, Disaster Sheltering for Companion Animals Two Day Certification
- December 8 – Welcome Center/Retail Shop Training
- December 14 – Adoption Training
- January 4 – Adoption Training
- January 11 – Cat Socialization Training
- January 12 – Welcome Center OR Tour Guide Training
- January 18 – Cat Walking Training Program
- January 26 – Trapping Training

## Litter Box Blues

What do you do when an adorable cat is returned for not using the litter box? Cat Depot staff started by asking a lot of questions, and when answers were not found, they decided to start at the beginning.

Four wonderful cats were returned to Cat Depot because they were eliminating outside the litter box. Was the problem a result of where the box was placed? Was there another animal guarding the box? Was the litter changed to something the cat didn't like? These are just a few of the questions that staff asked before placing the four forlorn cats in a pod by themselves.



*Tangelo*

To get to the bottom of the matter, staff offered up nine litter boxes. Eight contained various brands of litter (including a new "all natural" brand) and one was empty. After a couple of days, staff reported good news — every cat was using a litter box. The bad news: No one knew which cat was using which litter box.

Animal behaviorist Iris Eastman said, "Cats often have paw sensitivity to litter and may choose their brand according to how it feels on their paw pads." If paw sensitivity is an issue, it may be why one of the cats is using the empty litter box. But which cat?

Then someone said, "Let's add a camera and tape them." Easy solution, or so they thought. Going "wireless" in a concrete, hurricane-resistant building can have its challenges. For volunteers Ed Rasys and Scott Speicher, it has not been the cat's meow. Two cameras and one laptop later, along with endless hours of testing, they may have found a solution. By the time you

read this article, we hope to know which kitty prefers which brand.

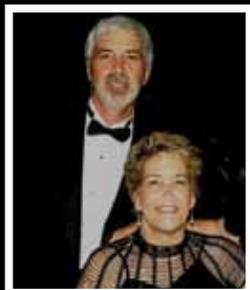


*Suzie*

Find out more in our next newsletter when we uncover the mystery of individual litter box likes and dislikes. To protect the privacy rights of each feline, individual names may be changed.



### THE INSIDE SCOOP



Linda and Ken Slavin

Knowledge is a powerful tool. Through education, lives can be enhanced and reshaped, and a nation of people who care about homeless animals will result. At least, that's our hope.

The imparting and acquiring of knowledge through teaching and learning will begin this fall, when children, teens and adults will have the opportunity to learn more about cat and kitten care, socialization programs,

## From A Living Legacy, An Education Center Is



New Education Center at Cat Depot

rescue and disaster training, and more. Guest speakers from around the country will share their knowledge, insight and special skills, all because of the generosity of a living legacy.

Philanthropists Ken and Linda Slavin charitably donated the funds to build Cat Depot's 700-square-foot education and

media center. The facility, like the adoption center, will be accessible to those with disabilities by way of a lift to the second floor. It will accommodate nearly 50 people, classroom style, and will also contain an office, a bathroom, and a small kitchenette. Besides classes, the facility will be used for special projects and emergency rescue care.

The center opened with an action-packed day of activities during the Kids, Cats and Cupcakes Carnival on October 23. Guest speakers included veterinarians Dr. Romero ("So you want to be a vet") and Dr. Corona ("What you should know about your cat"). Organizations

**Baby Ruth** is a five-year-old who is blind in one eye, but it doesn't hinder her. She's a joy to have around. When you call her name, she immediately gets up and greets you with a little meow. If her buddy, Langston, is around, they head-butt each other and circle you. This way they can both get some attention and be petted.



**Davina** is only two-and-a-half years old. "The Divine Davina" is definitely a lap kitty. If another cat is sitting in your lap, you can tell by her expression that she is very disappointed. She craves attention and would love to go home with you. Please come visit her.



## Lap Cats Who Will



**Jack** is a six year old, front declawed cat whose number one mission is life is to find love. He is super sweet and loves to be petted and held. Jack is all heart and will make a great addition to any family.



**Trisha** is a four year old who loves to find a spot in the sun where she can curl up for a nice long nap. She enjoys being brushed and appreciates being pampered while she waits for her "dream family" to find her.

# Born

represented included FL Panther Rescue, Big Cat Habitat, Sarasota City Police K9 Unit and HSSC Pet Therapy, to name a few.

The Slavins' living legacy is already in full swing as a place to exchange knowledge, develop camaraderie, have fun and teach kindness to animals. Coming up: The center will host a two-day animal disaster training with American Humane on November 20-21. If education is the key to creating a better tomorrow, then let the learning begin!

For more information about living legacies and how you can make a difference, contact Cat Depot executive director Shelley Thayer at 941.366.2404 or email shelleYT@catdepot.org.

# Something for Everyone

Cat Depot has expanded its store and new items are arriving every day! Check out our latest cat bowls, scratchers, toys, live greens, collars, accessories, books and gift selection. Please consider Cat Depot for all your gift needs. It's guiltless shopping that helps the animals.



*"In your Face" by Carolyn Ritter*

Carolyn Ritter is an award-winning artist living in Bradenton, Florida. Her work has been published in American Style Magazine, Cat Fancy, Atlanta Style and Design and is currently on display and for sale at Cat Depot.

*"My paintings are intimate portraits of nature," says Carolyn.*

**Stanton** is five years old. This easygoing boy loves people, other kitties and even dogs. You can pick him up to cuddle or let him snuggle in your lap. For Stanton, the only thing missing is you.



**Freska** is a one year old sassy girl who loves to play, pose sweetly, get into mischief and make you laugh. She loves treats and thinks there is nothing better than a lap to sit in. Freska yearns for affection and promises true devotion as the only cat.



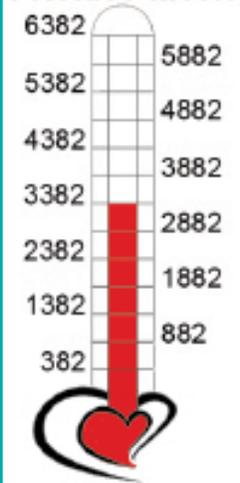
# Warm Your Heart



**Jason** is a three year old sweetie with beautiful blue crossed eyes which is typical of some Siamese. He loves walking in his

harness around the center and is completely content sitting in a lap. Quiet and modest, Jason is anything but demanding.

## Friskies Meter



## Elias and Fenway say: More Friskies Please!

Thanks for giving us over 3000 cans of food which we have eaten. Help us reach our goal of 6382 cans so we can chow down 'til December!



The kitties will love you.

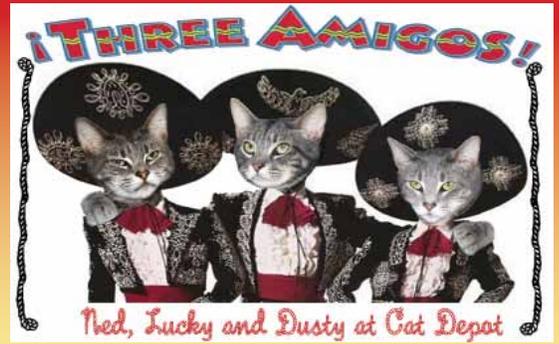
## The Three Amigos Update

When Ned, Lucky and Dusty, all front-page cover cats, didn't get adopted after their debut in Cat Depot's spring newsletter, we took serious notice.

All three have adorable faces, long, fawn-like legs, soft grey and white markings and sweet dispositions, so what's not to like? The one drawback with these cats is that they're shy, which can affect their chances of getting noticed when 10 other cats in their pod are clamoring for the attention of visitors.

But hope springs eternal. A kind volunteer is fostering Ned to see if he can adapt to the sights and sounds of an everyday household. Lucky and Dusty, who also have limited self-confidence need foster homes. According to Michelle, our adoption coordinator, "Lucky is ready to take his social skills to a higher level. He really is a lap cat; he just doesn't know it yet!"

If you are looking to make a difference and you believe that love conquers all, call Michelle at 941.366.2404.



## SIMON SEZ: SAVE A LIFE.



### INCLUDING YOUR OWN!

Hi, I'm Simon, a handsome feline affectionately known as Blue Eyes, Butterball or Little Meatloaf. Stroking an animal like me or even watching fish in an aquarium can be therapeutic — that is, if you are a human.

Did you know that studies done at the Berlin Institute of Longevity suggest that cats can add an average of 10.3 years to the lives of folks who have had cats since childhood? A 2010 study by the Minnesota Stroke Institute, which followed 4,000 cat owners over 10 years, suggests that people who have cats are 30 percent less likely to suffer a heart attack.

Children growing up with animals learn responsibility, empathy for others, and how to nurture kindness to animals. Having a pet also helps children through life traumas and deaths; infants exposed to cats develop resistance to allergens and asthma. Pet therapy sessions help children who have been abused or are diagnosed with autism to focus better, establish eye contact and improve their communication, motor and self-help skills.

Animal-assisted therapy was documented as early as the ninth century when disabled individuals were given the responsibility of caring for farm animals as part of a therapy program. The term "pet therapy" was coined in 1964 by Boris Levinson, a child psychologist who used dogs in sessions when he saw speech improvement in nonverbal children. Today, using a variety of animals, occupational, speech and physical therapists help clients gain a sense of trust and control, something they may not have elsewhere in their lives.

In nursing home facilities, daycare centers, hospitals and private homes, animal-assisted therapy is being used with seniors diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Regular contact with pets can reduce and even eliminate their symptoms of anxiety and agitation. For seniors who have been forced to relinquish their pets, the presence of an animal can make them more receptive to treatment and gives them someone to confide in, hug and hold.

Animals who might otherwise have been euthanized are successfully participating in residential programs for teens with chemical dependency issues, saving the lives of both pets and kids. Animal-assisted therapy is also being used with inmates; the animals' unconditional love allows inmates to be calmer and get along better with fellow inmates.

So, to enrich your life, Simon Sez consider adopting a pet. If you can't adopt, try spending some time socializing with rescued animals. Doing so improves their chances of adoption and it might help cure what ails you.

## From Philly Cheese Steaks To Florida Fish Sandwiches



*Edwina*

The cats, including kittens, had been housed in a single overcrowded commercial building managed by the Animal Friends of Elk and Cameron Counties. Many of the cats were suffering from a variety of untreated medical problems — the result of severe overcrowding.

Nearly 65 rescue workers from the ASPCA Field Investigations and Response Team, American Humane Services and PetSmart Charities assisted in the initial seizure, sheltering management and care of 387 rescued cats from unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in St. Marys, Pennsylvania.



*Elisha*

A community adoption event found homes for 132 cats and the ASPCA reached out to regional organizations and ASPCA partner agencies to place the rest of the cats.



*Davina*

Cat Depot was one of three Florida organizations along with rescue groups in six states that offered temporary housing and eventual, permanent placement for the remaining rescued cats.

Of the dozen cats taken in by Cat Depot, four remain. Their hope? That their long journey will find them a wonderful life! Please visit the Pennsylvania kitties. Your reward could be endless devotion and love.



*Donovan*



**Will you help me?**

There is no time to wait. Cats like Violet arrive every day and others are waiting to put their “street life” behind them. Please help us change their destiny by giving whatever you can spare. Even the smallest donation can make a difference to an animal in need.

### FREE and Low Cost Spay and Neuter

Cat Depot was awarded the FL Animal Friend, Inc. Spay & Neuter License Plate Grant which will help community residents with FREE or low cost services for both, free roaming community cats and family pets. If you or someone you know needs pet sterilization, please call 941.366.2404. Ask for Marilyn Warner.

### Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Linda Slavin, Shelley Thayer

Guest Columnist: Marianne Hight

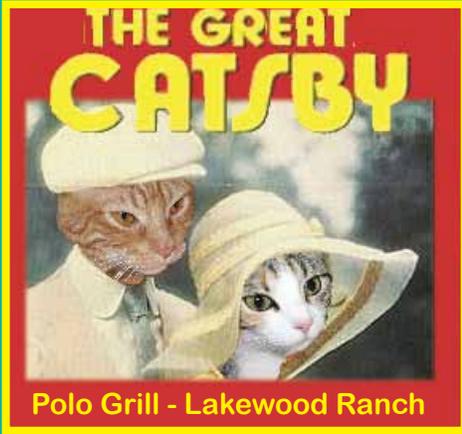
Photography: Marilyn Warner

Layout & Design: Fran Topp

### Artie and Max Find a Home

Thanks to the generosity of a few caring individuals, two very sweet cats with long term medical problems and a need for a separate home, have finally found their paradise. Beyond Design Contracting, Inc. of Sarasota, led the efforts to build Artie and Max a home where they can live out their lives in a safe and loving environment. Artie and Max are purring.





## Cat'sino Night 2011 and All That Jazz . . . Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Cat'sino Nautical Night was so much fun that voters for NATURAL AWAKENINGS magazine awarded it FIRST PLACE as SARASOTA'S FAVORITE FUNDRAISER. The big winners, of course, were the homeless cats and kittens who benefitted from everyone's generosity.

In 2011, we hope to increase the fun and save even more lives when we step back in time to an era of renewed prosperity, when automobiles, moving pictures and radio proliferated — the Roaring Twenties. The distinctive sounds of Jazz music will greet you as you step up to the Speakeasy to wet your whistle and then throw down the dice. So, don your fedora, pearl beads or flapper attire for a night of gaming tables, delicious dining, a silent auction, raffles and a roll of the dice to benefit unwanted and abandoned felines.

**Blow the blues away!**

**Sponsor**

**Donate**

**Join this red hot committee**

**And swing to the beat of cool jazz in the era of The Great Catsby.**

For more information, Check out "Events" at [www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org), or call or email: Lynn Rasys at 941.366.2494 or [LynnR@catdepot.org](mailto:LynnR@catdepot.org)



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## One Event You Won't Want to Miss!

Puss 'n' Boots and the Marquis invite you to attend the Pawpurr's Ball, an enchanting evening of delightful surprises from beginning to end, all to benefit homeless animals. Dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a trip through Merlin's inventions will have you asking, "Where did the time go, and how did it magically happen for only \$46.50 per person?"

*Don't miss out on this amazing night of fun!*

# PAWPURR'S BALL

Dinner • Dancing • Entertainment  
Silent Auction, Raffles & Surprises!




RSVP: 366-2404  
[www.catdepot.org](http://www.catdepot.org)  
Only \$46.50

WHEN: Saturday, November 13, 2010 – 6:30 - 11pm  
WHERE: G.WIZ – The Science Museum, 1001 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota  
ATTIRE: Reach into the back of your closet and grab that old frock or raggedy pants. Please don't buy anything new. If you feel the need to splurge, please do so at the Pawpurr's Ball.

All proceeds go to Cat Depot to help abandoned, homeless and injured cats and kittens with medical care, food and love.