



cat depot connection

A Rescue, Adoption, Education and Resource Center



2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234 • info@catdepot.org • www.catdepot.org • 941.366.2404 Issue 12 • Winter 2011

A Cat Short Sale

For many years, life with my family was good. I casually consumed my favorite meal of chicken and liver, slept in a warm house, and took afternoon cat naps on the sofa while looking out a picture window at squirrels, birds, and whatever moved. But, that was before my life changed forever.



"Nameless" after his surgery and unleashed dogs chased me up trees. How does a cat without Boy Scout survival skills stay alive? I was clueless about how to survive in my own neighborhood.

My street life was short-lived when I was attacked by a predator outside Angel's home. Realizing that I was in need of lifesaving veterinary care, she brought me to Cat Depot. Upon arrival, all four of my legs were swollen and I needed stitches, neutering and extensive care (hence the silly blue collar).

The folks at Cat Depot are nursing me back to health, but it will be a long recovery. I am happy to be in a safe, warm place but, I hope when I am well, I will be wanted. I am asking folks out there for donations to help Cat Depot with my surgical costs, a forever home, and most importantly, I want a name I can call my very own.

Send suggested names to AliciaM@catdepot.org by 3/15/11 and win a Cat Depot t-shirt! Or call her at 941.366.2404.

Over time, I began to notice that more and more houses on our block had signs posted on their front lawn indicating a foreclosure or short sale. Soon after, the families would bring in moving vans and, poof, they would disappear forever. And then one day, it happened to us as well. As my family began packing boxes, I overheard them talking about me and saying, "He'll adapt to the outdoors; a neighbor will feed him; he'll learn to hunt; and it's better than taking him to a shelter." And just like that, they walked away from their home and took their belongings . . . minus me.

I was thankful that one of the neighbors, Angel, fed me when she could. Even though I was a large, unneutered tom cat, I was a lousy hunter. Over time, I became very skinny. When it was cold, she'd leave open her garage door so I could sleep there. I must have missed Survival Class 101 because raccoons bared their teeth at me; birds pecked me and flew away; geckos left me their tails;



"Nameless" on the mend!

Support Our Mission • Give the Gift of Membership!

Dot Cat: The Year in Review



What an extraordinary year 2010 has been for my furry four-legged friends at Cat Depot! Our spacious 10,000+ square foot temporary lodging provides 10 free-roaming pods, a new education center to teach humans kindness to animals, new programs to assist cats with special needs, and a plan, in the works, to spay and neuter my buddies on site.

And, Cat Depot is excited that in 2010 we found homes for 869 cats and kittens compared to 511 in 2009. Our current residents can sleep better knowing that Cat Depot, by significantly increasing their adoptions, is now one step closer to eliminating homelessness for all pets.

This year, Dr. Julie Levy and the wonderful vets at Maddie's Shelter Medicine, located at the University of Florida Veterinary School in Gainesville, honored Cat Depot with an assessment of our facility and protocols. Dr. Levy stated, "Cat Depot is the finest feline exclusive facility I have ever seen." Cat Depot's dedicated staff and vet techs learned a lot from the team which will help us better address the needs of our shelter cats.

In addition, Cat Depot was awarded a \$25,000 grant by Florida Animal Friend, Inc. (the license plate folks) that enabled us to provide sterilizations for feral cats and domestic cats adopted by income challenged residents.

Five programs continue to benefit the welfare of our feline residents. **The Chubby Cat Program**, designed



Bandit



Babs

for furry individuals who need to cinch their waistlines, has helped cats safely and successfully lose weight. Reducing their carbs (dry food) and increasing their protein (wet food) decreases stress on their joints and there are fewer medical problems. Our **Cat Walking Program**, in

which volunteers walk cats in step-in harnesses, helps to increase mental stimulation and build courage. Potential adopters take notice, and it has helped more cats find forever homes. And my favorite monthly event, **Spa Day**, includes a free pedicure, ear cleaning, weight check, and overall



Cats need a monthly nail trim

check-up. For semi-feral and fearful cats, Cat Depot's **Socialization Program** has increased their adoptions by providing one-on-one therapy. And finally, our **Litter Box Blues Program** is designed for cats who have been relinquished because they stopped using a litter box. Video cameras have helped us discover that cats prefer clean, unscented clumping litter and litter that is softer on their paws (small pellets versus large pellets or crystals). And, thanks to a generous donor, John Hughes, Cat Depot has changed our traditional clay litter to clumping litter.

Last year has been amazing, thanks to our ongoing supporters, hard working volunteers and staff! My feline residents and I greatly appreciate your help in making 2010 the Year of the Cat. **Dot Cat**

Here Kitty, Kitty . . .

Mama was barely a year old, and she had six kittens in her care. By the time they arrived at Cat Depot, the nights were cold and wet, and the kittens were becoming ill. Too young to be in the shelter, they were taken to the home of a foster family. There, they have received daily doses of love and medication. Now on the mend, they will soon be ready for adoption.



Mama Kitty aka Sammie



Alexis

Foster families are always needed for special care. To learn more, contact Cat Depot and ask for Kim at 941.366.2404.

When There's a Will, There's a Way

Missy and her two siblings arrived at Cat Depot shortly after their human passed away. There was no plan or financial support, and no relative, friend or loved one who could take them. The fact that all three cats were shy worked against them, and Missy lacked the social skills needed to fit in with the other cats.



Missy - soon to graduate

Cats like Missy can have a difficult time being accepted at rescue centers, and if space is lacking, may find themselves in a life-threatening position. At Cat Depot however, Missy is going to “school” and slowly learning how to overcome her fears. Missy is lucky. Getting one cat into a rescue center can be difficult, but finding homes for three or more can be a real challenge, especially if they are extremely shy and lack social skills.

But the truth is, loving cats find themselves in this exact position every day. Few of us plan our demise, and when there is no will or instructions for the loved ones we leave behind, their fate can be precarious.

As much as our friends and family members love us, they may not be able to take on additional animals. And hoping for the best may not save the life of a loved one.



Protect your loved ones

This year, Cat Depot has made a commitment to help responsible cat owners with a plan that will honor their cats for life. Pet owners can feel confident knowing that the ones they love will be taken care of well after they are gone.

We may think we're infallible, but our furry loved ones are not. Protect them by providing an uninterrupted and planned future. Call or email Shelley Thayer at Cat Depot for more information: 941.366.2404 or ShelleyT@catdepot.org

Anxiety Relief

Even Garfield, the “cool cat,” has his moments of anxiety. But, when restless behavior becomes debilitating, intervention may spell relief.

Case in point is a recently adopted cat who peers out the window at night and howls. He runs from window to window and becomes more and more agitated. The howling keeps the family awake, and as the cat continues the routine, his anxiety escalates.

Fortunately, there are natural products available that are safe and effective. Composure chews for felines (not the dog and cat version) has worked wonders with the howling kitty. He is given a Composure treat



Sara - looking for love

before going to bed, and he sleeps through the night, providing relief for everyone. Composure can be purchased from many veterinarians and is

currently available at Cat Depot's gift store.

Rescue Remedy for animals, Anxiety Relief and other similar products are often effective for cats who become anxious in situations such as riding in a car.

Flower essences are used to treat both animals and people. Sara Goldenthal, a Certified Bach Flower Essence Practitioner for Animals, recently conducted a grant funded project with a humane organization in Portland, Maine. Sara used Bach Flower Essences with the feline population. Sara states, “The Bach Flower Essences can be a helpful tool in calming scared, insecure, depressed and anxious kitties. It can also help soothe the nervous system, with excellent results.”



Clarence - a loving boy

So, Garfield, the next time you're feeling anxious, you may want to sniff a flower, lay back and chill.

Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Linda Slavin, Shelley Thayer
Guest Columnists: Alicia McBratney & Mary Budd
Photography: Marilyn Warner & Gilla Gidmore
Layout & Design: Fran Topp



THE INSIDE SCOOP

Lots of forward momentum is in order for 2011. Already in the month of January, Cat Depot has been host to more than 100 children, 50 seniors, and 30 disaster trainees (Florida State Animal Response Coalition). Items on the horizon are a new Cat Depot website to share daily stories about new arrivals, rescued cats and kittens, activities, training sessions, feline tips and more.

Birthday parties and a summer camp are in the works, as are new training classes that include *How to Safely Trap a Cat* and *How to Start and Maintain a Cat*

What's Ahead in 2011



Dr. Stephen Romero demonstrates surgery in the new education center

Colony. School children, teens, and organizations of all ages are invited to attend scheduled activities or suggest an activity of interest.

The push continues toward opening the surgery center to help

the approximately 80 new cats who arrive each month. Cat Depot continues to rescue cats who are: homeless, kittens born to feral cats, relinquished pets, military relinquished pets, injured and abused cats, and cats from other local rescue organizations.

Of course, all this is made possible because of our hardworking volunteers and generous donors. A day does not go by that we are not grateful. Because of you, today is possible, and tomorrow is full of promise.

Clarence, a 1-year-old, is as low maintenance a kitty as they come!



He enjoys the simple pleasure of a chin scratch and is otherwise content to nap and lounge. You'll fall in love with his sweet, mellow purrsonality!



Blackie is an adorable 8-year-old teddy bear with a super lovable personality that deserves a great home! Attentive and friendly, he's an easygoing buddy and will make a great companion cat!



Flirtatious and charming, he's sure to win your heart.

Smudge is a 2-year-old who will purr at the first bit of attention and loves to curl up for a cat nap. From his pink nose to the tip of his tail, he's quite a handsome guy!



Our 1-year-old sweet-as **Honey** is equal parts good-natured and frisky fun! She'll go from curled up in your lap and giving kisses to chasing a feather wand in the blink of an eye. Friendly and loves to be petted!

Krystine is a gorgeous 4-year-old female who greets visitors with



a welcoming purr and will crawl into your lap for attention. She has style, grace and a warm personality that will make a lasting impression.



Robin Hughes, DVM

Sew 'n Sew Dr. Robin Hughes joins Cat Depot's Team New Surgery Center to Open in 2011

After six years of transporting cats to various veterinarians, Cat Depot's cats can now make an appointment to see the Doc without leaving the facility! Robin Hughes, DVM will work two half-days which is great news for cats who are nervous travelers. Dr. Hughes is highly respected in the veterinary field and knowledgeable about shelter medicine, sharing her time between The Humane Society of Sarasota County and Cat Depot. Her first task is to set up the surgery center and dental facilities.



Surgery Center nearing completion

Stephen Romero, DVM who led Cat Depot's veterinary care throughout the last six years and helped establish medical protocols, will remain an honored Cat Depot veterinarian. Cat Depot will continue to transport cats to veterinary specialists and is continually grateful for their support.

Dr. Hughes will be joined by veterinary assistants Kim Perez and Lauren Sears. This will complete Cat Depot's first onsite Dream Team.

The search for funds continues to complete the new facility. Five spay and neuter packs are needed and cost \$500 per pack. Heated blankets for two surgery tables are on our wish list, as are the following items: an overhead light, two surgery mats, sterile containers, a stand for an autoclave (to sterilize instruments) and various medical supplies. Total cost: \$8,500. Donations are greatly appreciated and will move us one step closer to opening the surgery center.

Fontana is a gentle 1-year-old girl who dreams of a home of her own. She is mellow, sweet and the tiniest bit shy. She loves to be scratched under her chin and purrs loudly. An

ideal companion, she is easygoing and warms up to visitors quickly.



REMEMBER THE THREE AMIGOS



DUSTY IS STILL WAITING

What a talkative guy! Sweet **Harley**, at 8-years-young, is a sweetheart who loves to chat up potential owners. You won't miss his adorable face because you'll hear him calling you over for a visit!



Looking For Love

Parrot is a playful 5-year-old cat with an outgoing personality who enjoys chasing the laser pointer. He is talkative, loves to meet new people and will quickly become your new best friend.



SIMON SEZ: Fun Facts



According to a folk story, Buddha called all the animals together to assign twelve of them a year in the Chinese Zodiac. When the cat heard the news, he asked his friend the rat to accompany him the following day. That morning the rat, who wanted to win, decided not to wake his friend and went alone. Due to the cat's tardiness, he was not assigned a year. This is why cats hate rats. To assure his chances to win, the rat rode to the assembly on the head of the ox, jumped off, and scrambled over the finish line, first. Hence, the year of the rat is the first year in the cycle, and the ox is the second. And, that may be where the phrase "You dirty rat" originated.

Did you know . . .

- Both humans and cats have identical regions in the brain responsible for emotion
- A cat will spend nearly 30% of his waking life grooming himself
- Cats lived with soldiers in trenches where they killed mice during World War I
- A domestic cat can sprint at about 31 miles per hour
- A cat can jump 5 times as high as its body height



Kids, Cats and Cupcakes Carnival

The Kids, Cats and Cupcakes Carnival, held Saturday, October 23, was a huge success! 1500 kids and their families participated in games, activities and entertainment.

A great time was had by all thanks to 168 hard working volunteers and the following businesses and people.

Sponsors: Cupcakes a Go-Go, DEX Imaging, Inc., Wal-Mart, Freeman Orthodontics, Fresh Market, Natural Awakenings, Sarasota Pet, Full Swing Production, Delaney Manufacturing, LLC

Donors: Our sincere thanks to 50 local businesses and individuals who graciously donated raffle items and games, as well as Chipotle Mexican Grill, First Federal Bank, Best Buy and DJ, Tommy DiSarro

Entertainers: Jammers, Funtastics-Cheerleading, Stage Door, Maria Wirries, Senshi Wakai Dojo, Studio of Dance, Traditional Dance Club, Sarasota Dance Academy, Funtastics-Gymnastics and Manatee School of the Arts.

Educators: Humane Society of Sarasota County, FL Panther Rescue, Sarasota City Police K9 Unit, Dr. Stephan Romero, Dr. Gilberto Corona, Gail Hall

Committee: Lauren Rappaport (chair), Lorrie Amadio, Tracy Bretoi, Mary Budd, Charles Carson,

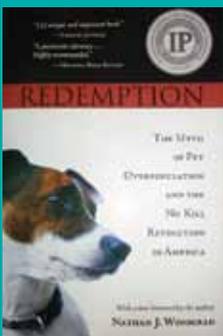
Kate Irwin, Tara Lang, Judy Larrabee, Jan Munsell, Lynn Rasys, Susan Scott, Carmen Speicher, Shelley Thayer, Mary Jo Weidiek, Colleen Warton



**Next Year -
Oct. 22, 2011**



A Review of Nathan J. Winograd's book "Redemption - The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No-Kill Revolution in America"



Can the American public really make a difference in the lives of shelter animals? Is the no-kill philosophy really attainable?

Nathan Winograd emphatically says "Yes!" He tells about the beginning of the animal rescue efforts in America. His goal is to prove that it must start with the desire to change the status quo. Killing healthy, adoptable animals is not the way to control the pet population. In the pages of this book, he becomes your mentor, guiding you through all aspects of the no-kill "equation" that are required to succeed. He answers the critics from every angle with real life stories. You will commit yourself to being part of the no-kill revolution after finishing this excellent book.

*Book is available for purchase in Cat Depot's gift shop.

Volunteer Appreciation Night



Bay Haven School students in Cat Depot's new education center

Alicia McBratney, Volunteer and Education Coordinator, joined Cat Depot's team in January 2011. Although she is new to Sarasota, she is not new to helping animals or working with volunteers. Her first project is planning Volunteer Appreciation Night. Volunteers, please join us for this special evening to honor YOU.

When: Saturday, April 2nd

Where: Cat Depot

Time: 5pm to 8pm

Food: Appetizers galore

Fun: Adult beverages, music, prizes, free raffle items and more!

The Pawpurr's Ball

Can you say magic? Puss 'n Boots and the Marquis welcomed 250 supporters to The Pawpurr's Ball, November 13, at G. Wiz - The Science Museum in Sarasota, FL.



Joe Oddi, Caitlyn Colleran, Erin Colleran, Kevin Roberts

Enchantment surrounded the evening that opened with the Riverview High School Chamber Choir welcoming everyone. Guests dined on a mashed potato bar and bread pudding served in, none other than, cat food bowls. A silent auction, raffle, and live auction with auctioneer extraordinaire Jimmy Dean, raised greatly needed funds for our homeless felines. Music was provided by Available Sound.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who made this evening possible.

Sponsors: Sarasota Ford, SRQ Media Group,

Ace Pet Resort, Delaney Manufacturing, Dr. M-A Salisbury of Animal Eye Care, Inc., The Observer, Dr. Heidi Ward, of Gulfcoast Veterinary Oncology/Internal Medicine

Donors: Over 200 generous donors and businesses contributed to the bountiful baskets, paintings, jewelry and variety of sought after items that were on display for bidding.

The following Distinguished Veterinarians were honored at the event for their dedication to helping animals: Gary Berkowitz, DVM, Terah Browning, DVM, Anne Elisabeth Chauvet, DVM, Gilberto Corona, DVM, A. John Izad, DVM, Robin Hughes, DVM, John Kirsch, DVM, Reagan McDonald, DVM, Dr. Nina, DVM, Howard L. Rand, DVM, BS Pharm, IVAS Certified, Steve Romero, DVM, M-A Salisbury, DVM, DACVO, Heidi Ward, DVM

Committee: Kevin Roberts (chair), Lisa Baker, Tracy Breto, Caitlyn Colleran, Erin Colleran, Valerie Colleran, Jeff Donahue, Gloria Grenier, Mary Haberstroh, Paul Krisher, Pam Matera, Pam McDonald, Katie Norvell, Lynn Rasys, Anjule Schell, Kathleen Schulte, Shelley Thayer, Deborah Vaughan

The Great Catsby Cat'sino Night . . . and All That Jazz



Looking to attend
an exciting event this
season that has it all?

Enjoy cool jazz, red hot mamas, delectable food, and gambling the night away for a truly deserving nonprofit. Cat Depot's The Great Catsby is one you won't want to miss!

Whet your whistle with some moonshine and swing to the jazz of the Ron Delp Quartet. Indulge in the innovative appetizers and scrumptious food prepared by internationally acclaimed proprietor and executive chef, Tommy Klauber, of Patti-george's, Polo Grill & Bar, and Fête Catering. Then, gamble away the remainder of the night to help with the care of 150 adorable stray kittens and cats awaiting adoption at Cat Depot. See you there!

Save the Date

When: Saturday, March 5, 2011
Time: 6:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Where: The Polo Grill, Fete Ballroom, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
Attire: Cocktail or Roaring 20's
Donation: \$150.00 per person, includes \$2500.00 in funny money for gambling



Reservations 3 Ways - RSVP by Feb. 21

- Call 941.366.2404
- Go online to www.catdepot.org, Events, The Great Catsby Cat'sino Night
- Mail a check to: Cat Depot, 2542 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34234

(Please include your phone number and the name of every attendee)



cat depot
2542 17th Street
Sarasota, FL 34234-1905

NONPROFIT ORG

U.S. Postage

PAID

MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT #381

Cat-rageous Yard Sale

Saturday, March 26

8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Cat Depot Parking Lot

2542 17th Street,
Sarasota, FL 34234



We are NOW ACCEPTING
clean, gently used items.

- Furniture, kitchen and home items
 - Outdoor items, sports, office
 - Art items, working electronics
 - Toys, games, stuffed animals
 - Tools, crafts, jewelry
- Please no clothing

COMMITTEE CHAIR and MEMBERS NEEDED!

Want to help - Call 366.2404 and ask for Alicia McBratney, or email AliciaM@catdepot.org

Sponsored by **Hide-Away**
Storage Made Easy! 

This event will benefit all the homeless cats in our care!

Remember Me?

Many of us have loved and lost a cat. Cat Depot is now offering pet owners the opportunity to immortalize their cats who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Cat Depot is looking for sponsors to name the 10 free roaming areas in which our cats temporarily reside. For a donation of \$5,000, your cat's name will prominently be displayed across the top of the pod. In addition, your cat's name and face will be etched onto a plaque which will include a description of your cat for educational purposes. For a donation of \$7,500, you can sponsor a larger pod with an outdoor lanai called a suite.

So, take a walk down memory lane and share what you adore most about your cat while helping shelter cats still waiting to be adopted.

