



# Tabby's Place®

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## New Beginnings

### Sardi

*Plagued with multiple medical issues, Sardi was surrendered to an animal shelter where she spent four years in a cage and received only minimal care. When she arrived at Tabby's Place, she was suffering from poorly regulated diabetes, severe skin allergies, and an infected eye.*

*Sardi's diabetes and allergies are now under control, and although we could not save her eye, Sardi's spirited nature and exuberant purr tell us she is happy with her new life.*



## SOME CATS ARE LOSERS – AND WE COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD!

One year ago, Tabby's Place instituted a weight loss program for its pudgiest residents. Your cat can have success, too. See page 2

**Skye**



**BEFORE** dropping  
4lbs.



**AFTER** success  
on her diet.

**Felix**



**Above: BEFORE** his weight loss.  
**Right: AFTER** losing 3.8lbs.



## 🐾 Some Cats are Losers...And We Couldn't Be More Proud! (from page 1)

By Laura Collins, DVM

An overweight cat is predisposed to diabetes, hepatic lipidosis (a serious liver disease), and arthritis. Her quality of life further diminishes if the weight causes difficulty jumping, running, or grooming.

At Tabby's Place, our overweight residents are fed measured portions of a low-calorie prescription diet twice per day. This regimen can present an emotional challenge to cat owners, who must resist their cats' hungry pleas. Susie, our Executive Director's office-mate, has tugged at the staff's heartstrings many a time with her meows for more food. By keeping to the diet, however, we know that we are serving Susie's best interests.



Susie before dropping 4.9lbs.



Slim Susie shows off her results.

Susie's skeleton is meant to support a weight of 10 pounds. At 20 pounds, she was our most overweight resident. Susie has lost an impressive 4.9 pounds in 12 months. This is equivalent to a 300-pound human losing 75 pounds in the space of a year. She and fellow "weight watchers" Cookie, Felix, and Skye will likely remain on their feeding regimens for life. They are comfortable now because their bodies have acclimated to their diets.



Does your Garfield need to cut back on his lasagna? Your first step in a weight loss program should be a trip to your veterinarian, to determine an appropriate weight target and monthly weight loss goal. Rapid weight loss in overweight cats can result in hepatic lipidosis, so we rarely want cats to lose more than a pound per month. Your vet will also recommend an appropriate diet and feeding schedule.

With a little patience and determination, you can help your cat achieve her appropriate weight, thereby increasing her overall health and lifespan. 🐾

## 🐾 Macho Update



Macho in his new home.

Remember Macho, the adorable Persian featured in the [last issue](#)? Macho's extremely flat face limits his breathing ability and leaves him no room in his mouth to store his tongue, so it sticks out perpetually.

Tabby's Place Volunteer Lori Stagnitto couldn't resist his funny face and took him home. She reports that Macho loves to chase balls, carry them in his mouth, and drop them into his water bowl. He also enjoys chasing the vacuum cleaner! 🐾



## 🐾 People With Allergies CAN Keep Their Cats

The way we see it, adopting a cat is a lifetime commitment, much like welcoming a child into the world. Since both become members of the family, giving one of them up is a false choice. People with allergies can live comfortably with their cats. Here's how:

- Confine your cat to one area of the house – and don't make it your bedroom! While you may feel bad about limiting your cat's living space, it beats surrendering it to a shelter where its fate is uncertain.
- Replace curtains and drapes with solid blinds, and replace carpeting with wood floors or tile.
- Use HEPA air purifiers in the rooms frequented by your cat.
- Use a HEPA vacuum cleaner. Vacuum flooring and furniture regularly.
- Use a vapor steam cleaner to kill allergens that get embedded in carpets and upholstery.
- Wipe down walls and other flat surfaces regularly.
- Apply Allerpet or PetalCleanse to your cat's coat to reduce allergens in the air.
- Ask your allergist about making a serum using a sample of your cat's hair for hyposensitization injections.
- Wash your hands immediately after petting your cat.



These tips are extremely effective in reducing the amount of allergens in the home and making it a comfortable environment for both humans and felines. They come from Mercia Tapping, cat lover and president of [allergybuyersclub.com](http://allergybuyersclub.com). If you'd like to learn more about living with cats and allergies, we encourage you to investigate the wealth of resources online. In fact...why not begin your exploration using [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com)? 🐾

## 🐾 Raise Money For Tabby's Place Each Time You Search The Internet

Log onto [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) – a search engine powered by Yahoo! – and type Tabby's Place into the "I'm supporting" box. Tabby's Place will receive a donation each time you search the web using Goodsearch! 🐾



**🐾 Bat Mitzvah Benefits Cats**

On her bat mitzvah day, Emma Long collected supplies for Tabby's Place from all of her guests. She spoke to them about her experience volunteering at our sanctuary and the importance of getting involved in making the world a better place. In lieu of party favors, Emma presented each guest with a check to send to an organization of his or her choice.

A bat mitzvah is a special occasion signifying a Jewish girl's entrance into adulthood. Emma is showing herself to be a mature, sensitive, and responsible young woman. Mazel tov, Emma! 🐾



Emma delivers boxes of cat supplies.

**🐾 Computers Needed For Our Kitty Kiosk Project**

*Help us promote our adoptable cats in the local mall and other high traffic locations.*



Do you have an old computer that needs a new home?

Might your company have extra computers to donate for a tax deduction?

We are looking for computers with at least a 17" monitor that can run Windows XP. If you can help, please contact Danielle at [outreach@tabbysplace.org](mailto:outreach@tabbysplace.org). Thanks! 🐾

**🐾 Forever Loved  
Homage to Sammy**

On his best day, he tipped the scales at a modest seven pounds. But what Sammy lacked in size, he made up for in personality and vocalization.



Sammy was a beloved fixture of our lobby.

Sammy came to Tabby's Place in March of 2004 at the ripe old age of 18. From the beginning, he just wanted to be with people. He was placed in a suite initially, where he was the smallest resident but would elbow the others out of the way in a determined attempt to get to any available lap. Eventually, given his age and his constant need to be around humans, we moved him to the lobby. He settled in quickly, charming visitors and making us laugh with his insistent meow whenever he wanted food or love.

Sammy never let circumstances deter him from his goal. He once jumped into Jonathan's lap when Jonathan was in the midst of an interview that was being filmed. The cats in suites were very frightened of the lobby filled with unfamiliar people, lights, and camera equipment, but Sammy was oblivious to it all; he just wanted attention. He also possessed a nearly magical ability to slip through briefly-opened doors, and it was not uncommon to find him in the Laundry Room or merely wandering a hallway.

We lost dear Sammy on April 5th to liver cancer. The lobby isn't the same without our little guy, but we're glad we could fill the last few years of his life with comfort and affection. Sammy is an outstanding example of what Tabby's Place is all about. We miss him very much. ❤️



🐾 **Staff Changes at the Sanctuary**



Pam and Special Needs cat Ace, adopted from Tabby's Place.

**A note from Pamela Garfield, outgoing Development Director:**

A year ago, my husband moved to Washington, DC with one of our cats to pursue his dream job. I already had my dream job at Tabby's Place, so I chose to stay in New Jersey. Now, however, I've decided to pack up our four remaining cats and the dog and reunite the family.

I have been part of Tabby's Place since its inception, and it is difficult to leave. I have gotten to know many of you very well. Others, though we haven't met, I most certainly know by name. Together, we've made it possible for Tabby's Place to carry out its mission. With 500 lives saved and almost 350 adoptions in three and a half years, we've got a lot to be proud of.

But this is only the beginning. While the sanctuary's current capacity is 100 cats, our vision is to house 400 cats. The township has already approved construction plans for two additional buildings on site. The date of our expansion depends on the generosity of our supporters and the fundraising prowess of the Development Department. For that reason, I am excited to introduce the excellent team taking over the fundraising responsibilities.



Angela snuggles Snowball, her Mom's spunky kitty.

**Meet Angela Townsend, Development Associate:**

I first came to Tabby's Place a year ago and adopted Dibbles, a shy boy who needed help coming out of his shell. He's a blissful kitty, especially now that he has a new cat companion. In May I brought six-month-old Pippa home from my interview at Tabby's Place. She and Dibbles are best buddies!

As the Development Associate, I have the privilege of overseeing the Special Needs Sponsorship Program and producing this Newsletter. I am overjoyed to be part of the Tabby's Place team and encourage you to contact me anytime with questions, comments, or suggestions: [at@tabbysplace.org](mailto:at@tabbysplace.org).



Kirsten cuddles her beloved Tita.

**Meet Kirsten Rani Almeida, Development Director:**

Hello, Tabby's Place Supporters! I am thrilled to become a part of this great organization doing amazing work on behalf of our feline friends. Just to share with you a little about myself, my passions are cats, musical theater, and fundraising. Though my fiancé is allergic to cats, he has adjusted to life with my spoiled rotten boy, Tita. Tita was found locked in a bedroom of the empty condo my friend moved into eight years ago. I sometimes think he is a puppy trapped in a cat's body by the way he greets me at the door or follows me around the house.

I look forward to working with you to save the lives of countless cats in hopeless situations. Please stop in and introduce yourself or drop me an email. I'd love to hear from you. 🐾



## 🐾 Engrave a Brick to Honor Your Loved Ones



A sample brick on our walkway

You are invited to celebrate the legacy of beloved pets and people on our Memorial Walkway. For a gift of \$500 or more, you can personalize one of the bricks leading from the sanctuary facility to Cherny's Garden (a tranquil space named for a lost, cherished Tabby's Place resident). Your gift pays tribute to your loved one's memory while supporting the future rescue and care of precious cats. To find out more, [click here](#). 🐾

## 🐾 Go Shopping...Save Cats

Shop at over 600 brand name stores like Barnes & Noble, Eddie Bauer, Lands' End, and Petco. Up to 26% of every purchase is donated to Tabby's Place!

Go to [www.iGive.com/TabbysPlace](http://www.iGive.com/TabbysPlace) and register for free. 🐾



## 🐾 Happy Endings



Above, the DelPianos meet Hanna. At right is happy Hanna in her new home.



### **Hanna**

We report with great joy that Hanna has found her forever home! You may remember Hanna as our "New Beginnings" girl in the [last issue](#). She came to Tabby's Place after losing her owner to suicide. After a few months of enjoying the special status of "Lobby Greeter," life became even brighter for Hanna when newlyweds Michael and Rebecca DelPiano adopted her as a companion for their 13-year-old cat. Hanna reportedly settled in quickly and is "doing fabulously." 🏠

