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Tabby's Place®

Newsletter No. 5.4 🐾 Fourth Quarter 2007

New Beginnings: 500th Cat

Mittens

By Angela Townsend

500th
Rescue!



Mittens faced unregulated diabetes, an open bite wound and the threat of euthanasia...until Tabby's Place stepped in.



Tabby's Place celebrates its 500th rescue with the arrival of Mittens. His diabetes had made him an unwanted burden to his owner, who tossed him outside. Mittens suffered severe bite wounds. His owner noticed Mittens' injuries weeks later and brought him to the vet to be euthanized.

That's when Tabby's Place entered the story.

Because he was such a nice boy, the vet called us in hopes of saving Mittens. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to find room for Mittens and nurture him back to health with patience and first-rate care.

Today Mittens is a perky kitty with a long life ahead. His fabulous personality makes us hopeful that a loving adopter will give Mittens the forever home he deserves.

Would you like to be part of Mitten's amazing story? Please sign up to sponsor this extraordinary cat today. Your generous monthly gift on Mittens' behalf will enable us to continue providing first-rate care and love. Visit [Mittens](#)^[1] and enter his life today.

The Stuff of Life

By Angela Townsend, with calculations from Genevieve Carhart, Stephanie Halcozenko and Jonathan Rosenberg.

You know our veterinary expenses are significant at Tabby's Place, but did you ever wonder just how much ordinary "cat stuff" we go through each day? If you've ever gone from a single-cat household to owning two or more cats, you know that each cat greatly increases the daily volume of food and litter used, as well as the expense. Imagine providing for a 100+-cat "household!" The following chart provides a breakdown of our daily use of basic necessities.



Item	TP Usage/Month	Avg Household Usage/Month
Regular Dry Cat Food	266.7 lbs	5.3 lbs ^[2]
Prescription Dry Cat Food	218.8 lbs	N/A
Prescription Wet Cat Food	217.3 lbs	N/A
Cat Litter	3,300 lbs	66 lbs
Laundry	9,000 lbs	500 lbs ^[3]

[1] Sponsor Mittens: www.tabbysplace.org

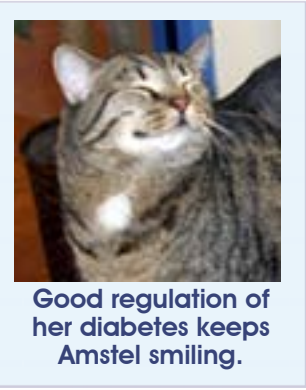
[2] Avg. household = 2.1 cats (www.arnhammerpets.com/multifac.asp); TP has 105 cats.

[3] Avg. household does 400 loads/year, average load = 15 lbs. (www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/manuf_res/downloads/2007ClothesWasher_prg.pdf). TP washer and dryer handle 30-lb loads, of which we do 10/day.



🐾 Not Just for the “Mother Teresas” of Pet Lovers

Have you ever heard about someone caring for a special needs cat (maybe even right here in this newsletter), and thought, “I’m so glad that there are people willing to adopt *those cats*...but I could never be one of *those people*”? However, living with a special needs cat isn’t as difficult as you might imagine. Tabby’s Place’s veterinarian, Dr. Laura Collins, writes this month on personally caring for a diabetic cat like Amstel^[1], Nuttin^[2], Sammie^[3] or Ringo^[4].



Diabetes

By Laura Collins, DVM



Diabetes results when an animal's pancreas is unable to produce enough *insulin*. Insulin is a hormone that causes glucose to enter the body's cells, providing energy. A diabetic cat will lose weight as her body breaks down fat and muscle for energy. The initial symptoms also include excessive thirst and urination. Untreated diabetes can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration and death.



As with humans, feline diabetes is treated with insulin injections, once to twice daily, and diet.

Unlike humans, however, cats can become non-diabetic with treatment. Unfortunately, these “transient diabetics” are prone to becoming permanently diabetic later.

Owning a diabetic cat is a serious commitment, due to the need for insulin injections, a special diet, and more frequent veterinary visits. In addition, most people are nervous about giving their cat injections. However, owners inevitably find giving insulin to be very easy. And, while scheduling is important, on days when insulin can't be given within two hours of its regular time, I recommend skipping the insulin. Missing an injection once a week will not harm your cat.



A well-regulated diabetic cat will usually live a normal lifespan. It can be very rewarding to care for a diabetic, knowing that you are providing health and happiness to a cat who needs you.

Whether or not you choose to adopt a diabetic, or other special needs cat, your sponsorship of such cats enables them to enjoy life at Tabby's Place. 🐾



[1] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=203
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=216

[3] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=176
 [4] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=355





Beautiful Rusty is FIV+.

Did you know... that more cats than ever are in need of loving sponsors? Tabby's Place is currently home to nearly 50 special needs cats, with chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, morbid obesity and renal failure. Might you have it in your heart and resources to help us care for a precious feline like Rusty^[1] or Lillian^[2]?



Lovely Lillian has glaucoma and is a cancer survivor.

🐾 Cat Age Conversion: Is Tiger a Teenager? Is Georgie Older Than Grandpa?

By Angela Townsend

Cat Age	Human Age
1	15
2	24
5	36
7	44
10	56
14	72
17	84
20	96

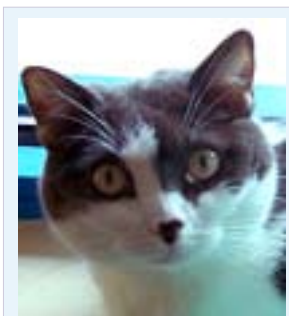
Have you ever wondered about the correlation between cat age and human ages?

Check out this [chart](#)^[3].

If you have cats, you may be saying, "that explains a lot." At Tabby's Place, 6-year-old ("40-year-old") Desi^[4] does seem rather like a mild-mannered, cautious adult. On the other hand, at 1-2 ("late teens/early twenties"), Mitsu is more interested in sowing his wild oats. Of course, there are always exceptions...childlike 18-year-old Hillary^[5] doesn't

remind us of many 88-year-olds we've ever met.

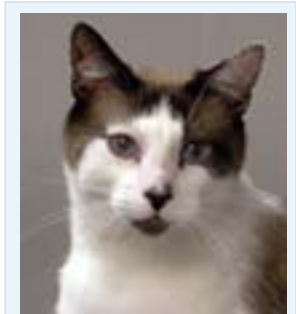
Many folks come into Tabby's Place looking for a very young cat. Despite the common misconceptions that "kittens have malleable personalities" and "only a very young cat will bond," older cats are often a better choice. While a kitten is precious and full of playful energy, his tiny features will quickly mature, and the curtain-shredding side of that energy can be more wearying than delightful. A 6-year-old cat is likely to remain as sweet, or playful, or independent, as he was when you first fell in love with him. A kitten's personality can change dramatically as she ages.



At six years of age, Desi is 40 in 'human years.'

Since cats regularly live beyond their late teens, a "middle-aged" cat is likely to be a dear companion for many years to come. And you can't beat a senior cat if you're looking for a "lap warmer."

If you're looking for a wonderful companion of any age, Tabby's Place is the place for you. We currently have over 100 adoptable cats from five days to eighteen years of age. Come meet your new furry family member today. 🐾



At about 20 in 'people years,' Mitsu is full of fun.



Hillary may be an octogenarian in 'people years,' but she still acts like a kitten.

[1] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=341

[2] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=126

[3] <http://cats.about.com/cs/healthissues/a/agechart.htm>

[4] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=246

[5] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=100



🐾 **Forever Loved**

Cloud

By Angela Townsend

There is an empty space the size of a gentle white cat in the heart and lobby of Tabby's Place, where Cloud once dwelled. Survived by her sister Sky, Cloud faced a succession of medical woes. After bravely living with cerebellar hypoplasia all her life, Cloud succumbed to mammary cancer in June 2007. Our sweet girl is fondly remembered for her cute wobbly walk (which would turn into a joyful, wobbly sprint if affection looked likely!), and her resilient good nature even when being handled for medical procedures. Cloud's tender personality and remarkable gentleness blessed every volunteer, staffer and visitor, and will live on in the memories of all who loved her and the continued presence of her dear sister Sky. 🐾



Cloud was a beloved greeter in our lobby.

🐾 **A Celebration of Life**



Your support helps us continue to provide cats with medical care fun and affection.

Working with precious lives more fragile and temporary than our own, we at Tabby's Place are highly attuned to the irreplaceable value of each life. As you consider the legacy you desire to leave on this earth, consider providing a place in your plans for the rescue and nurture of the extraordinary creatures we serve. Through a charitable bequest, gift of securities, life insurance policy, pension plan, IRA, retirement plan, will or trust, you will leave a vibrant heritage of kindness. Please contact Development Director Kirsten Rani Almeida at 908-237-5300 ext. 235, or ka@tabbysplace.org for more information on how you can be a critical part of our life-saving work for many years to come. 🐾

🐾 **Shop...for Cats**

What if every time you shopped online, a percentage of the sale went to Tabby's Place? Check out [GoodShop!](#)^[1] More than 100 stores including Target, Macy's and Petco have teamed up with [GoodSearch](#)^[2] to direct a percentage of every sale to your favorite charity.

No username or password is required. Just designate Tabby's Place as the charity of your choice, click on a store logo, and shop as you normally would.

You'll pay the regular price for your order, but every time you shop you'll be helping us save cats from hopeless situations. GoodShop gives 3-20% or more of each sale to the charity of your choice. The next time you're shopping online, go to GoodShop. 🐾

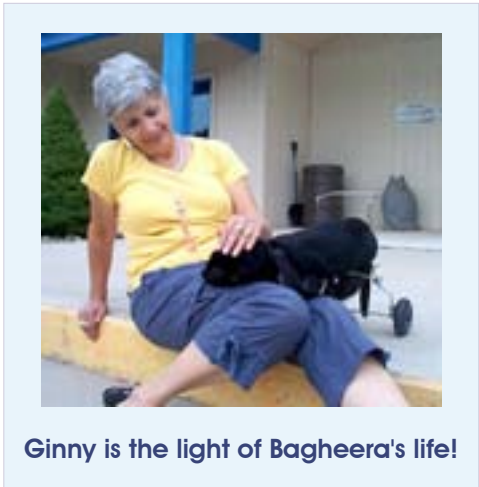


[1] www.goodsearch.com/goodshopping.aspx
 [2] www.goodsearch.com/



Meet Ginny Carhart, Administrative Assistant And A Whole Lot More

By Angela Townsend



Ginny is the light of Bagheera's life!

Have you ever met another administrative assistant who captures fractious cats, provides a spectacular quality of life for a paraplegic cat, and gives IV fluids in between calculating payroll and creating spreadsheets?

Meet Genevieve Carhart. There is nothing ordinary about Tabby's Place's beloved Ginny. In addition to completing the sanctuary's administrative needs, Ginny is extraordinary in every area of our work. The sanctuary's veritable "poster boy," cuddly paraplegic Bagheera^[1], has a love-filled life thanks largely to Ginny. Every day, Ginny keeps Bags beside her desk in his blanket-swathed wheelbarrow, and in the afternoons she brings him outside for walks in his mobility cart.

One especially unique role for Ginny role is her Friday-morning routine of going where only the bravest of folk dare to venture: Suite A. While many fear the feisty cats of Suite A^[2], Ginny transports them one by one, with poise and gentleness so their suite can be thoroughly cleaned. Ginny persistently and patiently transports cats, trims nails, and does whatever is asked of her. Her patience and attitude of confidence have gradually helped skittish cats like Buster come to trust humans more readily.

Even the medical realm is familiar territory to Ginny. Every weekday, she administers life-giving IV fluids to several sanctuary residents, soothing them with tender affection all the while.

No task is too big for Ginny. Whether she is giving affection to a lonely cat, keeping the sanctuary in order, or bringing joy and laughter to her co-workers, Ginny is a multi-faceted jewel, and we are very grateful to have her with us. 🐾



Ginny gives fluids to Franny and several other cats each day.



Planning for Your Pets in Your Will

The Tabby's Place Guardian Angel Program offers you a means to ensure that your feline companions will be cared for at the time of your disability.

Under this program, you can be assured that your cats will gain immediate acceptance to the facility, where they will receive love and attention, high-quality medical care, and a peaceful, home-like environment.

For more information please [click here](#)^[3].

[1] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=225
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html
 [3] www.tabbysplace.org/guardian-angel-program.html



🐾 **Quarters for a Kingly Cat**



Queen Nefertiti - er - Lily - reigns from her Purramid

Do you feel the ancient Egyptians' devotion to your feline? Tabby's Place can help you regale him like the little Pharaoh he is. Come into Tabby's Place and purchase a Purramid. This fun kitty "bed" has quickly become one of the most popular hanging-out places for Tabby's Place's residents. To walk by any Purramid and peek inside is to see the very happy face of a cat who appreciates being revered. Your own fine feline can enjoy the same; Purramids are available at Tabby's Place for \$15, and all proceeds help further our mission to save cats from hopeless situations. 🐾

🐾 **Happy Endings**

Susie

By Tabby's Place Founder and Executive Director, Jonathan Rosenberg

Susie stole my heart the moment she entered Tabby's Place. I suppose it was her outgoing nature and her need to comment about everything. She had gorgeous markings and, despite being morbidly obese, carried herself with a confident swagger. I made Susie my office mate so that I could be with her, and so she could start a diet.

Susie greeted me every morning for a year by chattering about how she had missed me during the night. As discussed in the previous Newsletter, Susie lost five pounds over the past year and looked more beautiful than ever.

Shortly after the last Newsletter, Susie broke my heart by being adopted. She is doing wonderfully. I miss her dearly, though I am so very happy for her. I have a photo of her on my desk that I kiss every day. I love you, Susie. 🏠



Jonathan and Susie shared a wonderful bond.

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