



Tabby's Place®



Affectionate Onyx is a staff and volunteer favorite.



Sneakers and Bandit remain beautifully bonded.

New Beginnings

Sneakers, Bandit & Onyx

By Angela Townsend

The majority of cats at Tabby's Place are rescued from the euthanasia lists at other shelters. However, Sneakers¹ (who is diabetic), Bandit² and Onyx³ (who both have FLUTD) were first rescued many years ago by a caring woman. Since then they have enjoyed lives of comfort in a happy home. To ensure this trio's long-term well being, their owner enrolled them in the Tabby's Place Guardian Angel Program⁴. When she was no longer able to care for the cats, they were accepted immediately into the sanctuary.

All three boys are now beloved members of the Tabby's Place family. Cuddle-bug Onyx quickly endears himself to visitors with his contagious enthusiasm, and Bandit's playful ways haven't been slowed down by a lymphoma diagnosis. Lion-like Sneakers' diabetes has gone into remission, and he draws oohs and aahs for his regal looks. We are delighted to have the privilege of caring for these high-spirited fellows.

The Old, the Young, the Sick, the Healthy

By Angela Townsend

Often people hear of our mission to rescue cats from hopeless situations and assume that our residents must all be elderly, chronically ill or dying. While our commitment to rescue 'unwanted' felines means we have 'more than our fair share' of elderly and special needs⁵ cats, our kitties range in age from kittenhood to ripe old age, and have needs ranging from 'food, water and love' to extensive and expensive medical care. The following chart offers a snapshot of our current population.

Stunning sanctuary resident Mozart⁶ is a purebred Himalayan around age twelve with special needs.

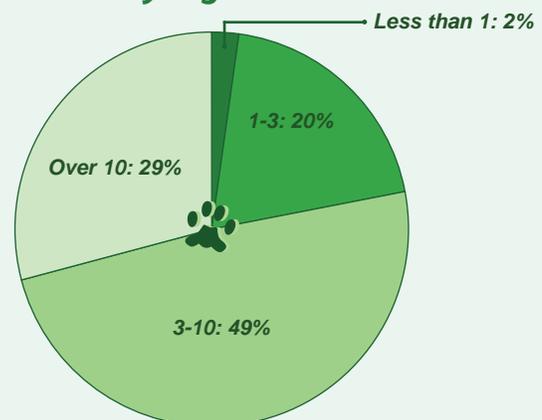


Cats by Health Issues

53% are healthy
11% are FIV +
10% have heart disease
8% have diabetes
4% have cancer
31% have other special needs

*The total exceeds 100% because some cats have multiple diseases.

Cats by Age in Years



[1] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=513
[2] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=512
[3] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=511

[4] www.tabbysplace.org/guardian-angel-program.html
[5] www.tabbysplace.org/what-is-a-special-needs-cat.html

[6] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=280



🐾 Your Cats and Stress

By Angela Townsend

When not sleeping, your cat is probably busy being fawned over or enjoying treats. Could your cat be stressed? It's more likely than you might imagine. And, unlike you, Powderpuff can't meditate at the end of an anxious day. It's up to you to recognize and minimize the effects of stress on your cat.

You may forestall unhappiness, illness and feline behavioral problems by becoming savvy about feline stress. Among the common causes of such stress are:



If his favorite person, Ginny, is out of the office for even a few days, Bagheera's² mournful wails let everyone know that he's very stressed.



- **Changes in daily routine:** Alterations to your cat's daily rituals can cause her anxiety. Cats are inveterate creatures of habit, so it's best to gradually prepare them for change. For example, leave the house for slowly-increasing periods of time over the course of a week before beginning a new job. If feeding times must change, adjust gradually over a few days, rather than all at once.
- **Changes in the family:** Perhaps you and your boyfriend have gone your separate ways, or maybe your older cat has recently passed away. Even a cat who never seemed fond of a now-gone animal or person is likely to experience some anxiety at the loss. It may be helpful to provide your cat with some belongings of the cat or person who has left. In any case, reassuring words and cuddles are called for whenever familiar faces exit your cat's life.
- **Subtle changes:** Fear can strike your cat's heart for reasons that aren't immediately obvious, such as a fellow cat's decision to control the litter box. Provide each cat with his own litter box, as well as 'safe places,' such as a cat tree, to retreat. Changes unrelated to other felines, such as new furniture or a visit by a guest, are mitigated by the creation and preservation of your cat's own safe places.

What all these stressors have in common is change. Unlike dogs and many people, cats don't find change exciting – for them, it can be debilitating. A variety of products, such as [Feliway](#)³, may be useful in calming your kitty during times of stress. If none of these options help, your vet can suggest appropriate medications. Most importantly, in times of change, the little routines that bond your cat to you are reassuring. No matter what changes life brings, the constants your cat has come to trust will give him confidence in your continued presence, protection and love. 🐾



Giving [Tiny](#)¹ his own 'realm,' complete with litter box, prevents him from causing stress to other cats by trying to commandeer the entire suite.



[Thomas](#)⁴ life may not look stressful, but even small changes in daily routine can cause anxiety for any cat.

April-Shower your dear ones with love by supporting kitties!



Looking for the perfect way to celebrate the life of a friend or family member for Easter, Passover, graduation, or just to say 'I love you tons'? Look no further: you can bless your loved ones and support sweetheart cats like [Mittens](#)⁵ by making a tribute gift to Tabby's Place. Options for honoring your loved ones are blooming like May flowers. You can...

- Have a card sent in [honor](#)⁶ or [memory](#)⁷ of a person or pet.
- Dedicate a brick on our [Memorial Walkway](#)⁸ in honor of a dear one.
- Contact [Kirsten](#)⁹ to ask about designating a tree in the Tabby's Place parking lot, or part of the sanctuary itself, in a loved one's honor.

If spring fever has struck you with the love bug, shower the sweetness all around by showing your care for dear ones AND cats in need!



[1] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=476
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=225
 [3] http://cats.about.com/cs/fr/comfortzone_2.htm
 [4] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=13

[5] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=488
 [6] www.tabbysplace.org/donate-hm1.php?donationType=honor
 [7] www.tabbysplace.org/donate-memory.html
 [8] www.tabbysplace.org/memorial-walkway.html
 [9] ka@tabbysplace.org



🐾 Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

By Laura Collins, DVM

It's not unlikely that you've known a cat with heart disease who never gave any hint of illness. The result is that many cat owners are unaware of feline heart disease. In this article I will arm you with some basic information about the disease.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common cause of heart disease in cats. HCM, which is often asymptomatic, results from a thickened heart muscle, which reduces blood outflow during heart beats. The heart attempts to adjust for this by beating more rapidly. At some point, the heart may become unable to keep up and the cat can develop congestive heart failure, often leading to a buildup of fluid in the lungs, which can be fatal.

A veterinarian will usually suspect HCM if she hears a heart murmur. Although a murmur can be innocuous, there are two tests used commonly to evaluate the heart. A chest X-ray determines if the heart is enlarged, and if there is evidence of congestive heart failure. An ultrasound is the only test that will definitively diagnose HCM, by allowing the veterinarian to view the heart's walls and valves in action.



Beautiful **Blake**¹ has a mild case of HCM and doesn't require any medication at this time.



Heart disease doesn't keep **Tigger**² from being a chatterbox of affection and snuggles.

In some cases there is no murmur detected, and the diagnosis is not made until the cat shows symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, sudden onset of painful paralysis or weakness of the legs. Sadly, a cat can remain asymptomatic until a sudden death at home or under anesthesia.

While there is no medication that has been proven to slow down the progression of HCM, there are medications to treat symptoms and complications. Furthermore, the cause of HCM is currently unknown, although there is a known genetic component.

Though HCM can be a frustrating disease, it is by no means a death sentence. The prognosis is variable, with some cats being diagnosed, but not suffering from symptoms for years, or ever. In other cats HCM will lead quickly to congestive heart failure. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing how quickly the disease will progress.

Frankly, I hope that you never need this information. But, forewarned is forearmed. 🐾

🐾 Get thee to a vet: surprising cues that your cat needs medical attention

By Angela Townsend

Cats are notoriously skilled at hiding illness. Becoming attuned to your kitty's hints can help minimize suffering and expense. While you probably realize that a significant change in appetite, gait (walking style), vocalization or energy level is a reason to seek a vet, you should also be aware of the following signs:



If a playful girl like **Katrina**⁴ should suddenly become less active, we'd seek veterinary attention right away.

- **Inability to get comfortable**, which may indicate pain.
- **Slacking off on grooming or excessive primping**, which can indicate sickness, anxiety or depression.
- **Uncharacteristically introverted behavior (such as hiding)**, which can be due to stress or illness.

Your best route to preventing serious illness is to know your cat. Learning your cat's ways intimately not only helps prevent disease progression, but also encourages a close bond between you and your cat. 🐾

Terrific **Tony**'s³ eating habits were our clue to his underlying medical concern: acromegaly.



[1] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=529
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=354

[3] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=489
 [4] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=463

🐾 **Planning for your cats' perpetual care**

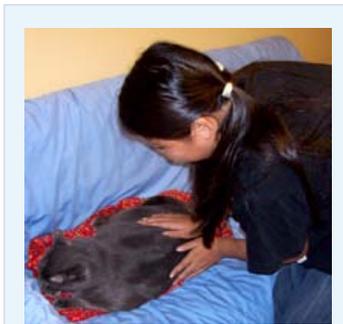
By Angela Townsend

Each year, 500,000¹ pets become orphaned when their caregivers pass away. Many of these once-beloved pets join the 575² dogs and cats euthanized every hour in crowded US shelters. While none of us likes to contemplate our own mortality, it's the responsibility of each cat 'parent' to ensure that their kitties will be well cared-for whatever the future may bring. Tabby's Place can help. We have created the Guardian Angel Program³ to help cat caregivers plan for their beloved pets' lifelong care. For more information or to enroll in the program, contact our Development Director, Kirsten Rani Almeida⁴. 🐾



🐾 **Molly and the Moggies***

By Angela Townsend



It was love at first cuddle for Molly and Tails⁶.

During her Bat Mitzvah ceremony, Molly Brusser celebrated her entry into Jewish adulthood. "Bat Mitzvah" is Hebrew for "daughter of kind deeds," and Molly hit the ground running on this by asking her guests to bring gifts⁵ for the residents of Tabby's Place. We were fortunate to meet this generous young woman when she and her mother came to the sanctuary to deliver the lavish supply of kitty accoutrements. Mazel tov (congratulations), Molly. We know you will be a blessing to many throughout your life.

*"Moggie" is an affectionate term for a domestic cat, often used by the British. 🐾



Molly and her Mom bring abundant cat supplies - and little Erin⁷ approves!

🐾 **From homeless to honored: Sarabi**

By Angela Townsend

It's a long way from the hurricane-flooded streets of Trenton to the world of satin ribbons and posh prizes, but not too far for a Tabby's Place alumna. In January, former TP resident Sarabi⁸ dazzled the judges at the Winter Wonderland Cat Show in Flemington, NJ with her semi-Siamese style, and earned a first place ribbon in the Household Pet category. Such a win is no small feat for any cat, but it's especially rewarding for a beauty like Sarabi: when she came to Tabby's Place, Sarabi had just barely survived Tropical Storm Ernesto, and had an ugly wound in her neck caused by a parasitic larva. We're proud to have been part of rescuing this sweetheart from her hopeless situation, and we join her 'mom,' TP volunteer⁹ and Benefactor Program¹⁰ member Nancy Meyer, in celebrating Sarabi's well-deserved victory! 🐾



Nancy and Sarabi celebrate Sarabi's win as Best Household Pet.

[1] www.2ndchance4pets.org/2nd_Chance_4_pets_FACT_SHEET.pdf
 [2] www.novoiceunheard.org/ProblemsSolutions.htm
 [3] www.tabbysplace.org/guardian-angel-program.html
 [4] ka@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext. 235
 [5] www.tabbysplace.org/wishlist.html

[6] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=304
 [7] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=408
 [8] <http://search.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=7133077>
 [9] www.tabbysplace.org/volunteer.html
 [10] www.tabbysplace.org/benefactor-program.html



Forever Loved: Sammie “#176”

By Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

It was a spring morning in 2005. I was on the early shift and entered the Diabetic Suite to administer insulin. Sammie, a new diabetic resident, didn't "look right" to me. I rushed him to the emergency vet, where they determined that he had suffered congestive heart failure. The cardiologist said that Sammie could live for up to three months, if we were lucky. We were greatly saddened. We moved Sammie into the Community Room¹, so he could spend his remaining time under our watchful eyes.



Sammie was – and always will be – a beloved symbol of what Tabby's Place is about.



We're truly grateful that we could help Sammie make the most of his colorful life.

Like most cats, Sammie was not good at listening. He decided to defy the doctors and live for three years. Along the way, he picked up inflammatory bowel disease and renal failure. Despite this, he was in good spirits 99% of the time.

Though Sammie had a perpetually-serious look on his face, he kept us laughing with his antics and unique personality. He was fond of jumping onto the conference table during our morning meetings and walking around, snubbing each person in turn. He was a favorite of many employees and volunteers.

In January of 2008, Sammie went into respiratory distress and was rushed to the emergency vet. X-rays showed that his chest and lungs were filled with fluid. There was nothing more we could do for him. I was by Sammie's side as we let him go gently.

No cat was more cherished than Sammie. He is missed every day. Rest in Peace, Baby Boy. 🍷

Tiptoeing through the catnip: Training your cat to walk on a harness

By Angela Townsend



Nuttin² relishes his outdoor adventures.

Mango the marmalade cat meows mournfully by the front door each night. You feel guilty denying him the excitement of the buzzing springtime world, but you don't want him to be harmed. How to appease Mango's taste for adventure without exposing him to danger? With a leash and harness and a healthy splash of patience, you and Mango can enjoy the best of both worlds - together.

First, you'll need some basic equipment. Identification, such as a microchip and/or ID tags, is essential in case you and Mango become separated. It's also crucial to get cat-specific protection against fleas and ticks. Once he's marked



as yours and bug-proofed, you'll need to get Mango his outdoor apparel: a safe and comfortable harness. The harness holds the cat securely and ensures that the leash does not pull directly on Mango's delicate neck.

Your next step will be the trickiest one: getting Mango to tolerate the leash and harness. You should know that some cats will never come to accept this gear or enjoy the outdoors, despite the most patient attempts. However, many felines come to relish their outdoor adventures so much that they look forward to their outdoor time. You can find helpful tips at About Cats³, Cats International⁴, and many other websites and books.

Once you and Mango have mastered the leash and harness, a new world of adventure and bonding lays open to you. As the days lengthen and warm, you'll likely find that you're both looking forward to sunny strolls together. Happy adventuring. 🐾

[1] www.tabbysplace.org/take-a-virtual-tour.html
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=216

[3] <http://cats.about.com/cs/behavioralissues/ht/leashtrain.htm>
 [4] www.catsinternational.org/articles/training/walking_your_cat.html



🐾 Happy Endings: Moxie¹ & Bathsheba²

By Angela Townsend

So you and your sister just found out your family no longer wanted you. Next, you find out that you've got heart disease, which is a strike against any cat's hopes of finding a forever home. Could things get any worse?

Well, if you're Moxie (and her sister Bathsheba), things were actually about to get a great deal better. When their family made the decision to give them up, the sisters found sanctuary at Tabby's Place through our Exceptional Circumstances program³. With love and patience, the TP team slowly won the trust of the pair, but the sisters remained fearful around strangers. Since they were deeply bonded to one another, we wouldn't adopt them separately, though we knew that this made it even less likely they would find a new home. Yet we continued to hope.

Much to our delight, a big-hearted woman came in looking for a pair of cats, and she was willing to be patient with our timid girls. It was forever at first sight, and we couldn't be happier for these deserving sisters. 🏠



It's only right that friends to the end Moxie and Bathsheba should find a forever home together.

🐾 Website Wonderment

If it's been awhile since you last perused the Tabby's Place website,⁴ it's time for a return visit. Among the new features: you can now view our adoptable cats,⁵ submit an adoption application,⁶ check out our new 365 Days of Love program,⁷ and find resources⁸ on kitty conundrums and more. Click on over and see what the technocats behind the TP website have been up to. 🐾



Executive Director: Jonathan Rosenberg

Editor: Angela Townsend

Managing Editor: Kirsten Rani Almeida

Designer: Patti Watson

Graphic Designers: Pauline Brego and Vance Chiara

Contributors: Dr. Laura Collins



[1] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=520
 [2] www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=521
 [3] www.tabbysplace.org/Resources/exc-cir.html
 [4] www.tabbysplace.org/index.html

[5] www.tabbysplace.org/adoptable.php
 [6] www.tabbysplace.org/adoption-app.php
 [7] www.tabbysplace.org/365.html
 [8] www.tabbysplace.org/Resources/surrender.html

