



# Tabby's Place™

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[www.tabbysplace.org](http://www.tabbysplace.org)

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Bellis' sunny spirit and zest for life more than make up for her lack of eyesight.

## New Beginnings

### Bellis

By Angela Townsend

*Long whiskers, check...cute perky tail, check...two bright eyes...er, no. Little Bellis came to us with two pieces of non-functioning 'basic equipment': underdeveloped eyes, probably due to a severe eye infection when a very young kitten. This affectionate girl seemed doomed to a lonely life in a shelter cage. We were delighted when a place opened for Bellis at Tabby's Place, and she quickly found a special place in the hearts of all who enter our lobby. Thanks to a bilateral enucleation (the removal of her "eyes"), this sweet sprite of a cat will be spared the infections and discomfort of her condition. Eyes or no eyes, we think our Bellis is truly the belle of the ball, and we're so grateful to be part of her story.*

## Separating Feline Facts from Flapdoodle

By Angela Townsend

You know that cats don't have nine lives and don't always land on their feet, but you might be surprised to learn that these commonly-held assumptions about kitties shouldn't be held any more:

Myth:	Truth:
Cats can and should have milk – especially kittens.	You should never give cow's milk to a kitten. The best nutrition for orphaned kittens is kitten formula. Adult cats should also stay away from cow's milk. Most cats are lactose intolerant, and drinking milk can cause diarrhea – no fun for either you or your kitty. <sup>1</sup>
All calicos/torties/torbies are female.	Not quite. The gene governing a cat's red-orange display is on the X chromosome, and it takes two X chromosomes to make a tri-colored cat. One out of every 3,000 tri-colored cats is male, with an extra X chromosome (XXY instead of the typical XY). <sup>3</sup>
Cats are nocturnal and can see in the dark.	Cats are crepuscular: most active at dusk and dawn. <sup>4</sup> While cats require only 1/6 of the light we do to decipher shapes, they are not able to see in complete darkness. <sup>4</sup>
Cats like tasty food.	Of course they do...right? Not quite! With their poor taste buds, cats eat primarily based on their sense of smell. Bring on the smelly food! <sup>5</sup>



Nocturnal? Not wide-eyed wonder Desi,<sup>6</sup> or any cat for that matter.



Who knew - calicos can be male...it just doesn't happen very often. Our Cali<sup>7</sup> is in the majority as a female calico.

[1] <http://cats.about.com/cs/catfood/a/humanfood.htm>

[2] <http://www.cat-world.com.au/FeedingFish.htm>

<http://www.petplace.com/cats/steatitis/page1.aspx>

[3] <http://www.sacbee.com/pets/story/258492.html>

[4] [http://pets.aol.com/articles/petfinder/\\_a/nine-feline-myths/20060712131309990001](http://pets.aol.com/articles/petfinder/_a/nine-feline-myths/20060712131309990001)

[http://www.thedailycat.com/practicalpetcare/Health/health\\_myths\\_debunked/index.html](http://www.thedailycat.com/practicalpetcare/Health/health_myths_debunked/index.html)

[5] <http://www.petmedsonline.org/top-5-myths-about-cats.html>

[6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=246](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=246)

[7] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=385>



## So, You Think You Want a Kitten?

By Angela Townsend

"Welcome to Tabby's Place!"  
"Yes, I'm wondering if you have any kittens?"

Multiply that conversation by fifteen, and you've got an average week of visits and calls to the sanctuary. We're in the height of 'kitten season' (the March-November<sup>1</sup> period in which most kittens are born in the Western Hemisphere), so this seems like a good time to address the good, the bad and the misunderstood of adopting a kitten versus an older cat.

The 'pluses' with kittens are obvious – their cuteness quotient is through the roof, their energy combined with lack of common sense is hysterical, and the thought of raising a cat from babyhood to old age is delightful.

The reality, however, isn't 100% pure delight. Your other cats (or family members, or furniture, or feet) will likely be on the receiving end of a kitten's volcanic energy.

If you adopt a kitten, you should expect biting and clawing to become a regular part of your day, especially if you adopt a 'bottle baby.' The vast majority of little ones at Tabby's Place are 'bottle babies:' kittens who were found separated from their mothers before they could survive alone. While you might imagine that these hand-raised kittens would be especially affectionate and gentle throughout their lives, the reverse is often true. Mother cats and siblings teach their babies when it is appropriate to bite and scratch, but kittens separated from their family too early miss out on important socialization lessons.



Teaching bottle babies like Guava, Kiwi and Pineapple to eat solid food can be quite the messy affair!

Bottle babies or not, kittens will have developed most of their personality and habits by the age of around six weeks.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, by the time a kitten is ready for adoption, his basic character is formed, and the idea of adopting a 'clean slate' isn't quite true.

Many people believe that an older cat is less likely to bond closely to you. But since many of our adult cats form deep bonds to individual staff members and volunteers, it's clear that they are capable of even deeper and more lasting bonds once adopted into forever homes.

Adopting a kitten isn't the only way to get a cat who will be with you for years; cats regularly live from 16-18 years of age, and you and your adult cat will likely enjoy many years of companionship.

So, when you're ready to adopt,<sup>3</sup> be willing to see beyond kittens' irresistibly-cute 'packaging' to the one- or five- or fifteen-year-old kitty who is just as deserving of love. She may be your purrfect match.



At four weeks of age, tiny Papaya doesn't yet do a great job of getting himself clean. Here he gets his very first bath from foster 'mom' Danielle.

## The Other End of the Spectrum: Golden Oldies

By Angela Townsend



Even with FIV, sweet Nickey<sup>6</sup> is the epitome of everything a cat can be at nineteen.

At Tabby's Place, we have a soft spot for senior felines. It always amazes us to meet cats who have spent ten or more years bouncing from shelter to shelter, or who have been abandoned by families they loved, and yet remain trusting, affectionate and sweet. It's never too late for their feline dreams to be fulfilled, and we rejoice to send stellar seniors like Serenade<sup>4</sup> and Sheba<sup>5</sup> to their well-deserved homes. If you agree that these resilient, gentle cats can teach us all something about continuing to trust and love all life long, consider opening your heart and home to the glow of a golden oldie.



At 16 Ringo<sup>7</sup> isn't too old to have fun and steal every heart he meets.

[1] [http://www.ipchumanesociety.org/Kitten\\_Season\\_Facts.html](http://www.ipchumanesociety.org/Kitten_Season_Facts.html)  
[2] <http://cats.about.com/cs/kittencare/a/kittenfirstyear.htm>

[3] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/adopt-a-cat.html>

[4] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=14>  
[5] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=296>  
[6] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=254](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=254)  
[7] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=355](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=355)

## Feline Asthma

By Laura Collins, DVM

Did you know that cats can develop asthma? While asthma is a serious condition, asthmatic cats like our Polly<sup>1</sup> and Franny<sup>2</sup> can enjoy long, happy lives.

Asthma, which is caused by airway constriction, is usually first diagnosed when a cat is 1-9 years old. Symptoms include increased respiratory rate and effort, which may result in open-mouth breathing (panting), coughing and wheezing. If your cat experiences frequent coughing (which may sound like a hairball), difficulty breathing or wheezing, she should be examined by your veterinarian.



Asthma doesn't keep cuddle bug Franny from reverting to kittenhood around 5pm each evening!

Asthma can vary from being mild, causing occasional problems, to severe, requiring life-long medication. Occasionally, an acute asthmatic crisis can be fatal. For an acute asthmatic crisis, an inhaled medication can open up their airways immediately. Many human asthmatics carry this inhaler in case of an asthmatic attack. This inhaler is not expensive and is useful to have around in case of emergency.

The mainstay of treatment is corticosteroids, which are usually extremely effective. But oral or injectable steroids can cause side effects. The inhaled form, commonly used by humans, works well with minimal side effects, but is expensive. The more frequently a cat requires medication, the more advisable is the use of inhaled steroids, as more frequent dosing with oral or injectable steroids raises the risk of side effects.

Just as with humans, an asthma diagnosis is not a death sentence, but simply requires a bit of extra care. For further reading, I recommend VeterinaryPartner.com<sup>3</sup>, a resource created by veterinarians for pet caregivers.



Jan's<sup>4</sup> asthma is mild enough that she doesn't presently require any medication.

## Purramid Purrfection

By Angela Townsend



Polly, a lobby greeter who has asthma, approves of being treated like a queen in her Purramid.

(shipping extra). Isn't it time your felines were lionized as the royalty they know they are?

What if we told you that the world's remaining stock of a wildly popular cat abode is owned by Tabby's Place? What if we told you that these items selling at a blazing pace? What if we told you that you could still obtain one of these houses?

Well, we're telling you!

The ever-popular Purramids have returned, for a limited time only. As Polly<sup>5</sup> and Gabby<sup>6</sup> show, environmentally-friendly, biodegradable Purramids are a huge hit at Tabby's Place, and have shown that they last a remarkably long time. Click here<sup>7</sup> or call Kirsten at 908-237-5300, ext. 235 to order your Purramid, for \$20 each or two for \$35



Lovely Gabby adores the view from her Purramid.

[1] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=264](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=264)  
[2] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=414](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=414)  
[3] <http://www.veterinarianpartner.com>  
[4] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=351>

[5] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=264](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=264)  
[6] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=480>  
[7] [ka@tabbysplace.org](mailto:ka@tabbysplace.org)

## Forever Loved: Lillian

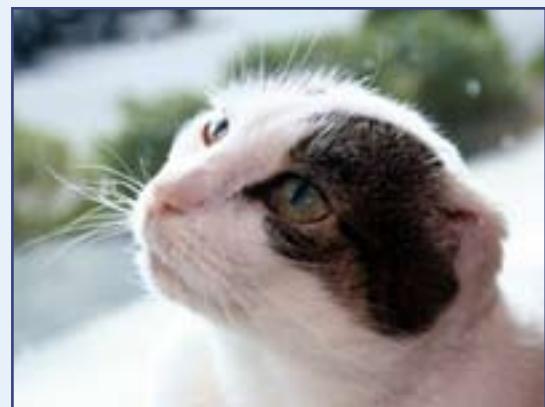
By Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

No Tabby's Place cat was loved by more people than Lillian.<sup>1</sup> She was strikingly pretty, very feminine, gentle, sweet and tidy. She was the best lap cat and never missed an opportunity to curl up contentedly in an available lap.

Lillian was loved by the many visitors whose laps she graced. But she had fans from every part of the globe, as she was one of our Special Needs<sup>2</sup> cats and her sponsors<sup>3</sup> lived near and far. Her sponsors grew to love her through her updates, as they followed her life. Her sponsors were "with her" when she survived cancer in her ear flaps. And they were there for the 2nd cancer in her ear canal and the difficult surgery that appeared to have eliminated the danger.



Lillian's sweet face blessed all who visited the lounge.



Our girl was beloved by people literally all over the world including many who never met her.

Much to our collective dismay, the cancer spread and Lillian's quality of life faded quickly. We let our girl go gently on March 20. She was surrounded by the employees and volunteers who loved her more than life itself.

A week later, I received a hand-written note from a 9 year old girl named Justine who had met Lillian during a Brownie troop tour:

*"One of my favorite cats at Tabby's Place died. Even though Lillian is gone I still love her. She is white and gray. I can't believe that she lived so long because she had cancer in her ears. Because of that she had no ears. Lillian was gentle, kind loveing [sic] and great with children. I miss her so much and I know she's gone but not in my heart."*

I couldn't have said it any better.

## Art Helping Animals

By Angela Townsend



One hundred percent of the proceeds from this portrait of Lillian will go to support the Tabby's Place cats. Please bid generously.

We are thrilled to announce that, in July and August, the gifted artists of Art Helping Animals<sup>4</sup> will be spotlighting Tabby's Place. Carol Chretien,<sup>5</sup> Melinda Dalke<sup>6</sup> and their cohorts have teamed up to devote their creative gifts to making the world a sweeter place for animals, and this summer they're offering splendid pieces based on our very own Erin,<sup>7</sup> Lillian<sup>8</sup> and others. A percentage of each painting's sale will be donated to Tabby's Place...each painting except for one, that is. Carol Chretien was so inspired by Lillian's story of courage, gentleness and globe-spanning fame that she is offering 100% of the sale from her portrait of Lillian to help Tabby's Place continue our mission of love and compassion. You can place a bid on Lillian's portrait here,<sup>9</sup> and view all the artwork created to benefit Tabby's Place here.<sup>10</sup>

So click on over and check out your favorite TP cats immortalized on the canvas, and please support these artists who do so much to support our felines!



If 'The Wizard's Cat' looks familiar that's because it's our Erin.

[1] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=126](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=126)

[2] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/what-is-a-special-needs-cat.html>

[3] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/specialneeds.php>

[4] <http://arthelpinganimals.com/ourmission.htm>

[5] <http://carolchretien.blogspot.com/>

[6] <http://www.dayleemojoarts.zoomshare.com/>

[7] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=408>

[8] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=126](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=126)

[9] <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=120270093337>

[10] <http://search.ebay.com/search/search.dll?sofocat=bs&sbrftog=1&catref=C6&fsytle=1&from=R10&satitle=TPCR&scat=550&catref=C6&bs=Search&fsop=1&fsoo=1&sargn=-1&saslc=2&sadis=200&fpos=91320&ftrt=1&ftrv=1&saprclo=&saprchi>



## Don't Forget the Ferals

By Angela Townsend



After being rescued from the mean streets Vinny<sup>1</sup> (left) made quick work of settling into indoor life and befriending Tails<sup>2</sup>.



Dusty<sup>3</sup> was rescued from the streets of Philadelphia where he'd been infected with FIV.

It's dusk, and you haven't had a bite to eat since this morning. Famished, you head over to one of your favorite fast food restaurants. Most of your friends are already there, so you take your regular place among them and dive in...to the dumpster.

Welcome to the world of a feral cat.

If you've ever seen a colony of feral cats, you may have wondered if there's anything you can do to help them.

One of the most effective and caring ways to help feral cats is by a method called Trap-Neuter-Return (also called Trap-Neuter-Release, or TNR). Managing a feral colony through TNR involves trapping the cats, having them sterilized & returning them to their colony, where they can lead happy lives, without creating more unwanted felines.

It's best to gather a group of friends or cat-loving neighbors so you can share the expense and. It's also worth finding out if the cats already have other human helpers who you can join. If the colony seems to have a regular supply of cat food, it's likely someone is helping them (and quite certain that they'd appreciate your joining their efforts).

Once the cats have been spayed or neutered, your team can keep them happy and healthy by regularly delivering food and water, and bringing any cats who seem ill to the vet. It's also a good idea to get official permission from whoever officially owns the cats' turf (for instance, the business owner or apartment superintendent). It's likely this person will be grateful to know that the cats are being managed, and that, with your help, their numbers won't grow.

So where do you start? We recommend reading the abundant Resources from Alley Cat Allies, the national nonprofit clearinghouse for information on feral and stray cats.<sup>5</sup> Their website provides information on trapping<sup>6</sup> ferals and establishing a TNR<sup>7</sup> group, and even dealing with the cats' neighbors<sup>8</sup>. If you need help from an existing TNR group, check out Alley Cat Rescue<sup>9</sup> or Love That Cat<sup>10</sup>, which offer lists of state-by-state, low-cost spay and neuter organizations and TNR groups. You can also find helpful advice<sup>11</sup> and resources at Neighborhood Cats<sup>12</sup>.



### What Is A Feral Cat?

A true feral cat has grown up with little or no human contact, or may be a former stray who has lived apart from people long enough to revert to a 'wild' state. Generally silent, feral cats will not approach humans, and are typically seen only from dusk to dawn (unless desperately hungry). They will rarely approach the food you offer until you've left the area. Like any wild animal, ferals are unhappy indoors, and do not make appropriate pets.



With a lot of patience and play the once semi-feral Peepers<sup>4</sup> has become a happy indoor cat ready for his forever home.

## Matching Gifts

Psst...did you know that your generous donations to Tabby's Place could be working twice as hard to benefit the cats, at no additional cost to you? Many large companies have a matching gifts program, in which they will match a percentage, the total, or even more than 100% of the employee's gift to Tabby's Place. So check with your employer to find out if your hard-earned, lovingly-donated support could cause twice the purrs for the cats of Tabby's Place. For more information, contact our Development Director, Kirsten Rani Almeida<sup>14</sup>.



Caesar<sup>13</sup> knows it's hard work earning a living - so let your support work double-time for you and the kitties by asking about your company's matching gift program!

[1] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=409>  
 [2] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=304>  
 [3] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=324](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=324)  
 [4] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=522>  
 [5] <http://www.alleycat.org/resources.html>

[6] [http://www.alleycat.org/resources\\_care.html#3](http://www.alleycat.org/resources_care.html#3)  
 [7] [http://www.alleycat.org/resources\\_care.html#1](http://www.alleycat.org/resources_care.html#1)  
 [8] [http://www.alleycat.org/resources\\_care.html#6](http://www.alleycat.org/resources_care.html#6)  
 [9] <http://www.saveacat.org/catlinks.html>  
 [10] <http://www.lovethatcat.com/spayneuter.html#states>

[11] <http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/info/managing.htm>  
 [12] [http://www.alleycat.org/resources\\_care.html#1](http://www.alleycat.org/resources_care.html#1)  
 [13] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=319>  
 [14] [ka@tabbysplace.org](mailto:ka@tabbysplace.org) or 908-237-5300 ext. 235

## Happy Endings: Rusty

By Angela Townsend

If you've ever sponsored<sup>1</sup> a Special Needs cat at Tabby's Place, you know how often we close our monthly updates with words like, "we have fallen in love with <cat> and we keep hoping that a special adopter will do so, also." Recently, the hoping came to a happy end for one of the cuddliest, most charismatic members of our Special Needs crew: Rusty.<sup>2</sup>



We're delighted that snuggle-bunny Rusty now has a family to snuggle him every day.



Rusty is already loving his new home.

Being FIV+ never seemed to ruffle the unstoppable sweetness of this jolly boy, who loved nothing as much as a lap (any lap – Rusty was anything but particular about loving people). Although Rusty was happy with his life of lounging in the solarium with Jasper<sup>3</sup> and Dusty,<sup>4</sup> we all knew that he'd be beyond bliss to have a family who would cherish and dote on him forever. Rusty seemed to personify the old adage, 'always a bridesmaid, never a bride,' as he was the 'second choice' of many adopters.

We are elated that Rusty has finally won his much-deserved 'first place' in somebody's heart, and he now has four 'somebodies' to lavish with his size-XXL love. We'll miss Rusty, but in the very happiest way.

## Where Are They Now?

By Angela Townsend

Like '80s rock stars, Tabby's Place alumni have a way of making people wonder whatever happened to them. We'll be using this space to keep you posted on what TP adoptees have done with their lives since passing through our doors for the last time.

Whatever happened to...Luke?<sup>5</sup>

Luke was nothing short of a firecracker, tearing around his TP suite with the vim of 15 cats, and tearing into any hand or leg that dared stand in his way. Luke always turned heads with his long-haired beauty, but would-be adopters were often scared away by our reports of his biting and scratching, or by Luke's own demonstration of these habits. So when Barbara and Bud fell head-over-paws for Luke, undaunted by his feisty ways, we knew he'd found his family.



Luke loves his new hayloft and his new family.

So what has Luke been up to since his comical, crazy days at TP? Between "his" hayloft and 75-foot barn, Luke has all the romping room he ever dreamed of. He's made fast friends with the family's other two rescued cats, Sambeau and Kippie Kat, as well as their miniature donkeys, Arabian horses and pony.

As for that, uh, toothy side? As Barbara puts it, "despite the dire predictions," Luke is "very affectionate...and has shown no signs of his prior aggressive behavior." In fact, this beautiful boy "runs for his love-ups each morning, afternoon and evening." Clearly Luke is smitten, and his new family is just as infatuated, writing, "we are delighted to have the opportunity to be his new caregivers, and beneficiaries of his many kisses and purrings bestowed on us daily." It looks like Luke has turned into the well-behaved snuggle bug we knew he could be, thanks to the wonders of love in a forever home.<sup>6</sup>

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[1] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/specialneeds.php>  
 [2] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=341](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=341)  
 [3] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=213](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=213)

[4] [http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN\\_page.php?id=324](http://www.tabbysplace.org/SN_page.php?id=324)  
 [5] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/cat-desc.php?id=466>  
 [6] <http://www.tabbysplace.org/adopt-a-cat.html>