



## New Beginnings: Psi

Angela Townsend, Development Director

In just eleven months on Earth, Psi has traveled far and wide. Her voyages have been fueled by love – and you're helping her on her sweetest journey yet.

Psi was born with *spina bifida* and abandoned by her mother



Psi

just days after birth. But a band of human angels saw the tiny kitten's boundless worth.

Kind folks rescued Psi in urban NJ. Soon thereafter, a big-hearted Canadian discovered Psi online, and arranged for a "rescue relay" to bring Psi to the Great White North. When she realized Psi's care was more than she could handle, Psi's Canadian angel made a painful, life-saving sacrifice and brought Psi all the way back to Jersey – this time to Tabby's Place.

Psi's severe Special Needs mean that she needs love on a life-saving scale. Like Tabby's Place alumna Dot, Psi is unable to walk normally or to eliminate without assistance, and she's prone to life-threatening infections and skin sores.

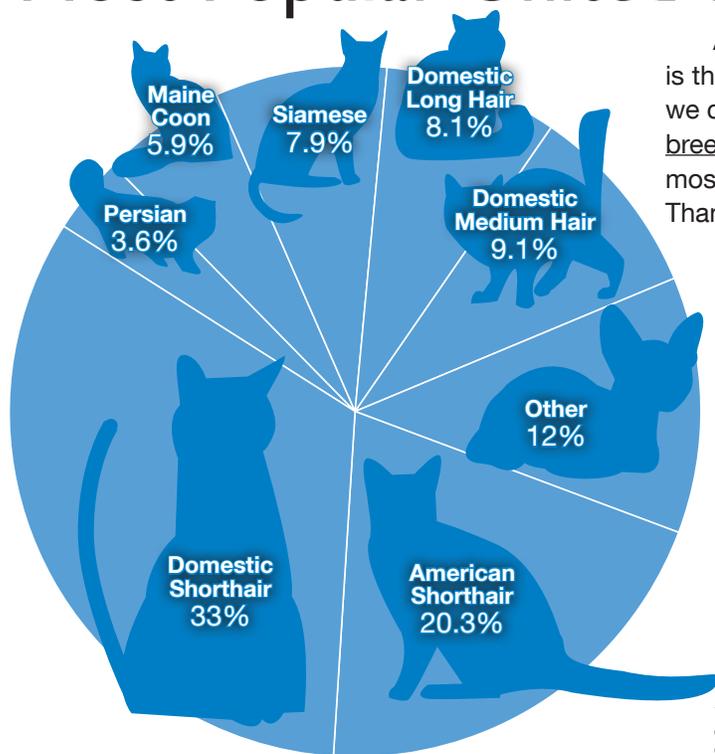


Psi is wrapped in love at Tabby's Place

Today, however, Psi is prone to nothing so much as joy, cuddles, and world-class medical care at Tabby's Place. Your love is helping us to save little Psi, and we hope you'll celebrate each of her victories with us.

## Most Popular United States Cat Breeds\*

Among the life lessons cats offer us, one of the most healing is the fact that there are no "misfits" when it comes to love. So we can't help but cheer when we look at the most popular US cat breeds and see that the humble Domestic Shorthair – the "mutt" most of us know and love best – is America's homecoming queen. Thank you for seeing the beauty in every Tabby's Place cat. – A.T.



### Numbers of Registered Cats

Domestic Shorthair	61,046
American Shorthair	37,545
Other	22,177
Domestic Medium Hair	16,776
Domestic Long Hair	15,049
Siamese	14,582
Maine Coon	10,852
Persian	6,717

\*<http://www.statisticbrain.com/cat-statistics/>; reflects numbers of registered cats as of 1.1.2014.



Peachy holds the proud distinction of being Tabby's Place's only Siamese cat

# Your Cat's Year of Awesome: Establish a Healthy Vet Routine

"But he's not sick."

"Everything is fine until we go to the vet."

"Dogs go every year, but cats are different, right?"

Many of us "learned" that vet visits are only necessary for cats in crisis. But like a flat earth or a moon made of green cheese, this is a myth. Let's replace it with some truths for healthy cats:

- **Every cat needs an annual visit to a veterinarian.** Your generosity helps care for Tabby's Place's Special Needs cats. But even "normal" cats need regular veterinary attention:
  - Cats are masters at masking symptoms, but a veterinarian can catch problems before they



Annual check-ups made it possible for us to discover that young, healthy Steve had severe dental disease



Consistent vet care helps healthy cats like Boris to stay that way

- become severe.
- Your cat ages more rapidly than you do, so one year for her is equivalent to 6-7 years for you. A lot can happen to her health in 12 months.
- If your cat has a medical emergency, she'll have a vet who knows her and can provide continuous care.
- **Indoor cats need vaccines, too.** Rabies vaccinations are required by law in most U.S. states, and rabies is always fatal in an unprotected cat. Even indoor cats are at risk, since bats can make their way indoors. Your vet can recommend the right frequency and core vaccines for your cat.
- **Older cats may need more frequent checkups.** Many veterinarians recommend twice-yearly visits once cats reach a certain age. These wellness checks can save your cat suffering – and save you money – by catching and managing age-related problems.
- **You can "shop around" for the right vet.** You are your cat's best

advocate, so don't hesitate to ask friends for recommendations, research veterinary hospitals, and take your time finding the right match for your cat. You can also search for a designated Cat Friendly Practice.

- **If costs are a challenge, help is available.** Your veterinarian may be willing to negotiate a payment plan. You can also find listings of organizations that assist with veterinary expenses via the Humane Society of the United States, Feline Outreach, the ASPCA, and RedRover.

If your cat hasn't had consistent veterinary care, spring is a stellar time for a fresh start. Your cat's healthiest days may be ahead, thanks to you. – A.T.

#### Recommended Reading:

- About.com Cats: Form a Partnership With Your Veterinarian
- About.com Veterinary Medicine: Vaccines for Cats
- American Association of Feline Practitioners: What Every Cat Owner Must Know and Caring for your Older Cat
- Veterinary Partner: Check in with a Checkup



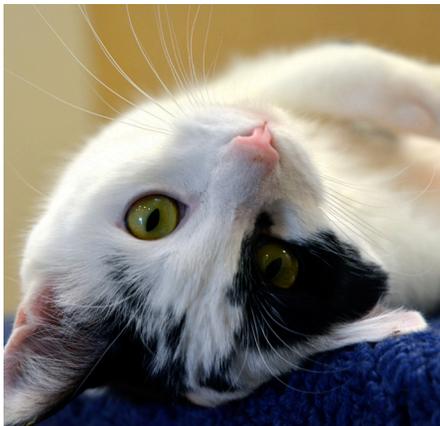
# Top 10 Things Your Vet Would Like You to Know: Part I

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

After you, your veterinarian is your cat's best ally for a long, healthy life. You can help your vet to help your cat by keeping the following things in mind.

## 1. We rely on your observations

**of your pet.** If you bring your cat in for a problem, be prepared to answer questions about the symptoms you've observed. How long has she been vomiting, when was the last time she vomited, when was the last time she



[Rose](#) came to Tabby's Place with thorough past medical history, which has helped us to provide her with excellent continuous care

urinated or defecated, and what does she eat? Has she ever had this problem before, and was it treated? If you're not the primary caretaker, ask these questions of the person who usually cares for the cat or have them available by telephone.

## 2. Bring pertinent medical information with you on your first visit with a new veterinarian.

If you have records from the previous veterinarian or previous owner, bring them in even if they're not clear to you. We probably can interpret them.

## 3. Don't medicate your pet without our advice.

Some human pharmaceuticals are toxic to pets (for example, one Tylenol® will kill a cat). Even if the drugs are used in pets, it may be at a far different dosage than that used in humans.

## 4. Feed a high quality diet and minimize table food treats.

## 5. Cats love string and thread, but don't let them play with them.

If they ingest string longer than an inch or two, it can become a



Faithful observation helped us to realize that [Fiona](#) had symptoms of diabetes

"linear foreign body" requiring surgery to remove. It can cause the intestine to accordion together and require multiple intestinal incisions to remove.

Stay tuned for our next issue for #6-10.



Daily monitoring helps us to stay on top of [Boots'](#) heart disease

# Kitten Season Cometh

Easter eggs. Fuzzy chicks. Squeaking kittens. The signs of spring are here, and you can be a birthday blessing to the newest kitties on the block:

- Sponsor the [Kitten Fund](#): Fragile kittens need tender care. You can be their personal hero as they grow up strong and loved.
- [Be prepared](#) for what to do if you find kittens outdoors.
- Welcome Tabby's Place's new kittens by donating toys, canned kitten food, Kitten Milk Replacer, and other items on our [wish list](#).



Your kindness will help kittens like [Gandalf](#) to thrive

# Forever Loved: Bagheera

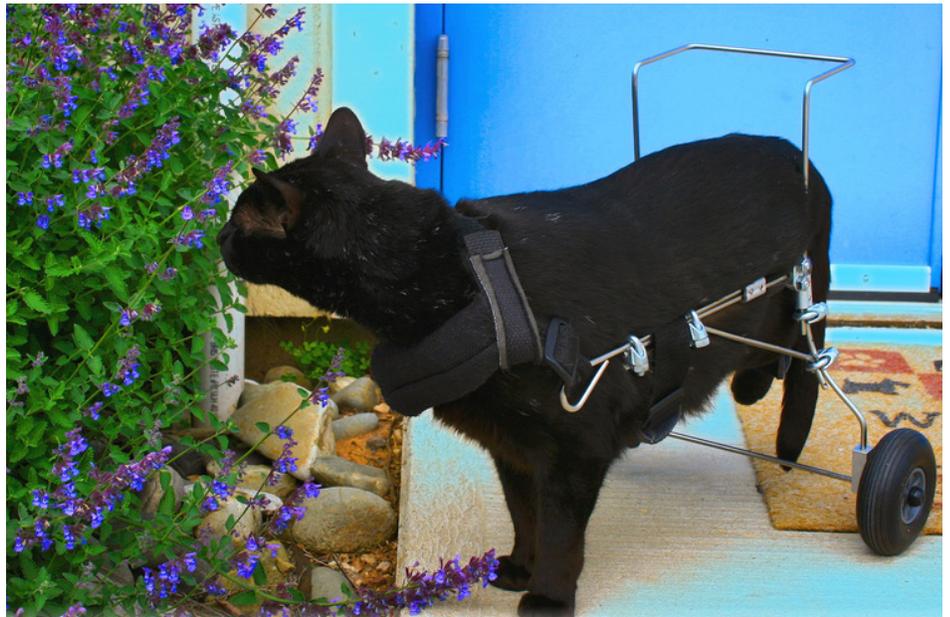
Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

By mid-2005, Tabby's Place had been open for two years and had dealt with many cat diseases. But even after tackling diabetes, heart disease and cancer, we struggled with the thought of caring for a paraplegic cat.

Bagheera, at nine years of age, had been hit by a car. His rear legs were paralyzed, but he was otherwise uninjured. His owner no longer wanted him, but a kind vet tech took him home. When it became clear Bagheera would never walk again, the vet tech called Tabby's Place.



**Bags delighted us for three years at Tabby's Place, going on to thrive for another six years with his adopter**



**Bagheera**

We struggled mightily with our response. Could a paraplegic cat have a good quality of life? In the end, we decide to take a chance and welcome "Bags" into the Tabby's Place family.

Bags quickly removed any doubts about quality of life: he had a blast. When he wasn't crawling around, he lounged in his rickshaw, hanging out with his best friend, Ginny. He also enjoyed excursions in his custom-made mobility cart, even cornering a mouse outside the building at one point.

Much to our surprise and delight, Bags was adopted by a

veterinarian from Connecticut. He spent the next six years with her, eventually moving to Florida, where he basked happily in the sun.

In mid-March I received an email saying that Bagheera had passed away from kidney disease, just short of his 17th birthday.

There are no words to explain how much Bagheera meant to Tabby's Place. He touched many hearts and paved the way for Tashi, Dot, Psi and all the non-ambulatory cats we have since cared for.

Bless you, Bags. Save me a place.

## Your Forever Loved

Whether you've had eight days or eighteen years with a cat, "goodbye" always comes too soon. The only thing deeper than your sorrow is the love you shared, and will always share.

If you would like your cat's love to echo into the lives of needy kitties, we invite you to consider a special brick on the Memorial Walkway at Tabby's Place. For a donation of \$500 or more, you can create a tribute to your extraordinary cat – and nurture the lives of cats who need love like yours.

Click [here](#) or [contact Angela](#) for more information. And know that our hearts are with you through the ache of "goodbye" and the joy of love.



**Honor your beloved cat with on the Memorial Walkway leading to Cherry's Garden**

# What You Need To Know About Cat Introductions

Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, [Volunteer](#), [Benefactor](#) & [Adopter](#)

*Editor's note: Shortly before penning this update, Nancy applied her own advice when she adopted Tabby's Place kittens [Camille](#) and [Benny](#).*

What cat lover doesn't look forward to adding a new cat to the family? Unfortunately, your other cats might not share your enthusiasm. Cats are territorial and can view a new cat as an intruder. A proper introduction is critical to setting the stage for a peaceful relationship among your cats.



A proper introduction is especially essential for shy sweeties like [Benny](#)

1. Set up a room for your new cat prior to her arrival, with a litter box, food, water, toys, scratching post and a comfortable bed. Keep your new cat in this "safe room" for about a week.
2. Be sure to "time share" and give all of your cats equal attention.
3. Stick to your resident cat's familiar routine.
4. Exchange bedding between the cats. Your resident cat must feel comfortable with the newcomer's scent before they can have visual or physical contact.
5. Feeding your resident cat treats just outside the new cat's room can help create a positive association.
6. Do a "cat exchange." Let your new cat explore the house while the resident cat explores the new cat's room.
7. Under strict supervision, let the cats view one another. Start by cracking the door or putting up a screen door. Alternately, you can put your new cat in a carrier or a crate, so your resident cat can approach without feeling threatened. Some mild form of confrontation, such as hissing or body posturing, is normal at this stage. It is critical that you monitor these subtle signals before the behavior escalates. If the cats' behavior is getting increasingly aggressive, fearful or stressed, go



[Camille](#) looks forward to life in her forever home with Nancy

- back to the previous step.
8. If all has been going well, remove the barrier so the cats can interact freely. Always supervise these interactions. Watch for staring, litter box guarding and other forms of intimidating behavior. If necessary, go back to the previous step. Always put your new cat back in her "safe room" when unsupervised.
  9. Once the cats appear to be getting along, allow short unsupervised interactions. Gradually increase the unsupervised time until they are mingling freely. If at any point overt aggression occurs between the cats, a re-introduction will be necessary.

Patience is the key to a successful introduction. You can always take a step back as needed until your cats accept one another – and maybe even become BFFs.

## Mother's Day Lovifest

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

– Abraham Lincoln

If you'd like to honor your own Mom, while caring for "angel mothers" of the feline kind, skip flowers in favor of the [Mama & Kittens Virtual Gift Basket](#) this year.

You'll deliver a big Mother's Day hug to mama cats and their newborns, and your Mom will receive a beautiful card announcing your gift of love.

Angel mothers come in multiple species – and you can celebrate them all at Tabby's Place.



Your Mother's Day love will help care for mamas like Wendy and her little ones.

# Happy Endings: Storm

Jessica Smith, [Adopter](#)

Six weeks ago we lost our beloved Maine Coon, Hobbes. In his memory, we wanted to save and adopt another cat. Although we considered many shelters, we chose Tabby's Place because we liked that it was a no kill shelter, and we were touched by the story of how it came to be. We were immediately drawn to a



[Storm cuddles up in his forever home](#)

cat named Storm on the Tabby's Place website. His profile described him as an independent, large Maine Coon. He sounded like our beloved Hobbes.

When we met Storm, he flopped right over and started purring. We liked him right away. Storm purred the whole way home in the car. This was awesome, because Hobbes always had a bad time in the car, yelling and panting. Not Storm. Once we got home, Storm came right out of the carrier and flopped on the floor at our feet. He purred so loudly, as if he knew he'd found his home. After a bit of discussion, we decided to give him a new name: Fitzie.

Despite his sometimes-feisty temperament at Tabby's Place, Fitzie seems very comfortable with us. He lets us rub his belly and follows us everywhere. Fitz loves playing with his toys, and he has a whole toy box



[Storm the magnificent at Tabby's Place](#)

to himself.

Fitz has adjusted well to our home, and it's like we have always had him. He's really enjoying the soft couch, and quickly claimed his "spot." As expected, Fitzie and our docile older dog pretty much just ignore each other. We are very happy we made the commitment to adopt him. Our thanks to Tabby's Place for all the wonderful things they do!

# Where Are They Now? D'Artagnan

Bailey Maitland, [Adopter](#) & [Psi](#) Sponsor

*Editor's note: Not only is Bailey the amazing woman who adopted our D'Artagnan, but she is also Psi's rescuer. We cannot begin to thank Bailey enough for loving Psi enough to bring her to Tabby's Place – and giving D'Art the love of a lifetime in her home.*

D'Art is doing great! Last March, he braved the 9 hour drive home to Ontario. It took time for him to adjust to his new citizenship -- and for his new sister, fellow paraplegic kitten Princess, to see that he was royalty too. But now the two are best friends.



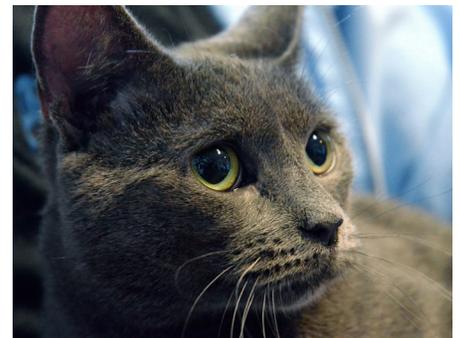
[D'Artagnan with Psi](#)

They groom each other and play together all the time.

D'Art loves running laps around the house, trying to stalk and pounce on Princess, and basking in the sun. He welcomed Psi with open paws, and bonded with her just as well as with Princess. He definitely took on the big brother role with her.

Recently, my dad got a kitten named Beetoo, whom D'Art seems to be quite fond of. Despite Beetoo having four functioning legs, D'Art can still beat him at a wrestling match! He follows Beetoo to the basement, but D'Art can't climb back up the stairs. You'd think he'd learn his lesson, but nope...D'Art does it every day. Little rascal!

Not too long ago, D'Art journeyed back to Tabby's Place with me to



[D'Artagnan made a return visit to Tabby's Place in March 2014](#)

drop off Psi. I was told he looks like a little man now instead of a little boy. He is growing into the most handsome kitty, and I look forward to many more years with him.

If you want to follow D'Art's antics, you can 'like' his [Facebook page](#).

Tabby's Place is wonderful, with incredible staff and volunteers too. I am so grateful for all the help and support they have provided, both for me and my kitty family, and all the kitties in their care. Keep up the fantastic work!