



New Beginnings: Casper

Angela Townsend, Development Director

Four months ago, conversations about Casper were framed with sighs. Overnight, he'd mysteriously gone from a healthy member of an outdoor cat colony to quadriplegic, unable even to lift his head. Veterinary specialists scrutinized the wide-eyed white cat inside and out, but Casper's case was a mystery.



Casper smiles with new hope at Tabby's Place

All we could know for certain was that there was something straddling his spine in a location too dangerous to biopsy... and it was almost certainly terminal cancer.

Where some might hear "terminal" as "hopeless," Casper took it as his personal challenge. Against all odds, he has prevailed. Through love, steroid treatments, physical therapy, and his own grace and grit, Casper has lived, thrived, and defied his way through spring and into summer.

Not content to simply keep living, Casper has relearned to



Casper

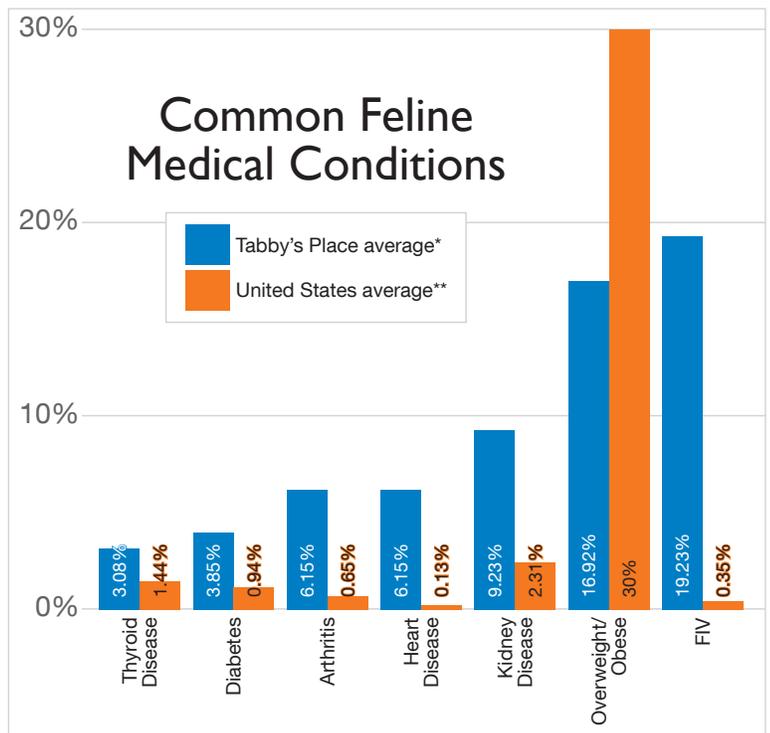
walk. His confident step bounces Casper in proud orbits around the Tabby's Place lobby daily, in search of affection (infinitely available), new challenges (latest triumph: launching onto a cat-sized couch) and wet food (the stinkier, the better). In all he does, Casper makes it clear that he was built to last – and to love.

Cats & Conditions

Thanks to you, Tabby's Place is a safe haven for cats with extraordinary medical needs. You make it possible for us to say "yes" to cats like Casper – and for them to say a triumphant "yes" to life, in the face of major medical challenges. Many of you are heroes at home, too, quietly engaged in labors of love for your own Special Needs cats. This quarter, let's compare the Tabby's Place population to the general United States feline population. – A.T.



Like over 3% of Tabby's Place cats, Peachy has hyperthyroidism



*Based on Tabby's Place's resident cat population as of June 9, 2014.

**Numbers from *Banfield State of Pet Health 2014 Report*; based on diagnoses of 465,130 cats seen at Banfield Pet Hospitals in 2013.

Your Cat's Year of Awesome: Ay, There's The Rub*

Your cat can be a bewildering little genie. Stroke her just so, and she dissolves into a puddle of purring pleasure. Moments later, that same blissful being turns and snaps at you as though your tender touch has betrayed her. How can you be sure to grant your cat's wish every time?

• **Respect the Belly:** It's an ocean of fluff. It's endless adorableness. And it sure looks like an invitation to scratch and stroke and snuggle when your cat rolls onto her back and shows you her belly. But unless you are entirely certain that this is a cat who likes her tummy touched, admire with your eyes only. Although she may be a long way from the wilderness, your sweet calico still has a strong instinct to protect her vulnerable spots – and it doesn't get more vulnerable than the belly, hosting your cat's vital organs. By showing you her tender tummy, your cat is telling you she trusts you. Respect that trust by letting her feel safe.



Some cats who are elderly or arthritic, like [Anneke](#), may actually find it painful to be picked up.

• **Let Her Perfume**

You: Think of all the places your cat likes to rub herself against things, from the loveseat to your legs. She's marking them with her scent, a happy activity that makes her world smell safe and familiar. Most cats' favorite places to be pet are these same spots their scent glands are located. Make the most of

two happy-kitty activities – petting and spreading *eau de Tabby* – by rubbing your cat in these preferred places:

- > Base of the tail
- > Bottom of the chin
- > Base of the ears
- > Just behind the whiskers

• **Careful with that Pickup Routine:**

“Does this cat like to be picked up?” If we had a dollar for every time a friendly visitor asked this, Tabby's Place could afford to rescue every homeless cat in the world. We can't blame those friendly visitors; there is something delightful about holding a happy cat in your arms. However, part of loving cats is accepting each one just as she is...and not every cat likes to be held. Trying to pick up a cat you've just met can be a frightening experience for her, and forcing yourself on a squirmy cat only reinforces for her that “hugs = scary, out-of-control experiences.” Similarly, if your otherwise-adoring cat reacts in terror every time you try to scoop her up, even after many years, don't take it personally. Many cats simply prefer to keep “four on the



This may look like an invitation to pet [Hootz's belly](#), but she'd prefer being scratched on her head and ears.

floor” at all times. It's not a sign that they don't trust you, any more than your brother's fear of roller coasters is a reflection on you.

One of the best parts of loving our cats well is learning to speak their language – and to rejoice in the wonderfully unique, personal way each one shows love in return. – A.T.

Recommended Reading:

- [Four Places to Pet Your Cat – and One to Leave Alone](#), Dr. Marty Becker, Vetstreet
- [Your Cat's Petting Preferences](#), Brad Kollus, CatChannel

**With apologies to Shakespeare.*



Other cats love being touched anywhere, anytime, like [Goldie](#). Patiently get to know and respect your own cat's preferences.



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

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Last quarter, I shared some “secrets” we vets would love for our clients to know. This time, let’s look at five more tips for helping your cat have an easier vet visit – and a happier, healthier life.

6. Be prepared to make decisions regarding your pet’s care.

You and your vet will work together as a team to craft the best diagnostic and therapeutic plan for your pet. Sometimes a “wait and see” approach is appropriate if you can watch your cat closely and will be able to return if the problem persists. Sometimes your cat may be in critical condition and need immediate intervention. I will make recommendations, but you need to be able to choose which plan works best for you and your cat.

7. Obesity has become a very common problem in cats. If your pet is overweight, he is being

overfed. Exercise is helpful, but you must decrease the amount he is eating, and you may want to change him to a lower calorie food. You cannot allow your pet to have dry food available all day long and expect him to lose weight. You must restrict the amount he is fed. If your pet is on a diet, weighing him weekly is helpful in determining how successfully his weight loss is proceeding. Your veterinarian will work with you in determining the ideal weight for your pet, and how rapidly that weight should be achieved.

8. Recognize what constitutes an emergency. If your cat is having difficulty breathing, experiencing a seizure, has pale gums, cannot walk, is suddenly bloated, or cannot urinate, he should be seen by a veterinarian immediately. Don’t wait until the morning when your regular veterinarian is in; take your cat to the emergency clinic now. If he has been limping for a week, or if he is scratching his ear, that can probably wait until the morning. If you have any questions and your regular veterinarian is closed, most emergency clinics will speak with you by phone to help you



Working closely with your vet, you can help your cat keep on smiling through old age, like [Lady Grey](#).

determine whether the pet can safely wait until the next morning to be examined.

9. We know how to restrain your pet in a manner that is safe for us and minimizes your pet’s stress. We know your pet is sweet at home, but he may be stressed after being put in a carrier, then a car, and then sitting in a waiting room listening to unfamiliar sounds. Please allow our technicians to do what they are skilled at doing.

10. There is no such thing as a stupid question. We want you to know anything you need to know to keep your pet healthy and happy!

You Can Haz ALL the Kittens

Feast your eyes on all those little niblets at right. Now, tell us which one you’d like to hug.

It’s an impossible question, of



Little powder-puff [Beaker](#) was a sickly infant, but [Kitten Fund](#) sponsors helped us to provide for all his needs.

course. Fortunately, you don’t need to pick just one kitten to love. As kitten season tumbles onward at Tabby’s Place, you can care for all the kittens who need you, by sponsoring the [Kitten Fund](#).

Your monthly donation will help care for every adorable angel growing up at Tabby’s Place. Tiny as kittens are, they take up vast acreage in our hearts, and you can help start them on the road to lifelong health and happiness. We’ll send you monthly updates and photos on the little ones you’re helping – or, if you’d like to



You can nurture little angels like [Carl](#), [Marvin](#), [Ted](#), [Barney](#) and [Robin](#).

give a gift, we’ll be happy to send the updates to a loved one.

Now, look at those sweet smidgens again. Then click [here](#) to hug them all. – A.T.

Forever Loved: Mittens

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder and Executive Director

In 2007, a local veterinarian called about an elderly tabby. When the cat was diagnosed with diabetes, his owner had tossed him outside. The faithful cat found his way home a few days later with serious bite wounds, at which time the owner sought to have him euthanized.

The cat was very friendly, the vet told us, but not likely to survive. We agreed to take Mittens, who arrived with a large e-collar, a feeding tube in his neck, and a happy spirit in spite of it all.



[Mittens savored life's sunshine at Tabby's Place](#)

Mittens sauntered around the medical office like he hadn't a care. He started eating immediately and never used the feeding tube.

Mittens flourished in our Lounge, exhilarating in the human attention. While his diabetes was well regulated, he gave us a few scares. He developed *necrotizing pancreatitis* and was given a 10% chance of survival. He came home with an e-collar and **two** feeding tubes: one into the stomach, one into the jejunum (small intestine).

But, true to form, Mittens was as happy as a clam and started eating right away (obviating both feeding tubes). Nothing slowed him down. Heart disease? Erosive rhinitis? No problem. His bag of medications grew, but Mittens remained happy and friendly.

In September of 2013, Mittens went into hypoglycemic shock for no apparent reason. With swift treatment, he rallied briefly. But when he began to fail again, an x-ray showed a large mass in his abdomen. We knew it was time and let him go, surrounded by love.

During the last year, Mittens and I spent virtually every lunch together. As soon as I sat down, he would jump into my lap and make himself comfortable. I would eat as best I could. I loved that boy



[Mittens and Jonathan](#)

dearly. Everyone did. He had a wonderful personality, took his meds without complaint and was always appreciative of attention.

Rest in peace, Baby Boy. Until we meet again.



[Mittens](#)

Four Easy Ways You Can Give Cats a Cool Summer

1. Freeze a small plastic bottle of water overnight (filled about $\frac{3}{4}$ full). In the morning, wrap the bottle in a towel and put it in one of your cat's favorite hangouts. If she gets uncomfortably warm, she'll be delighted to find the cool oasis. (Avoid gel cold packs, which may contain ingredients that are harmful to cats.)
2. Brush your cat daily; matted fur traps heat and can be especially uncomfortable in the summer.
3. If your cat goes outside, keep her in during the hottest part of the day, and during any heat advisories. If it is too hot for you to be outside, it is too hot for your cat.
4. Consider making a special "summer love" donation to the Tabby's Place cats. Did you know that summer is our slowest



[You can help cats like Casper to stay cool and comfortable all summer long.](#)

season for donations? Please help end this trend by reminding our cats that you love them in the lazy, hazy, crazy days, too. – A.T.

Environmental Enrichment: Releasing the Tiger Within

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

It's easy to forget that your cuddly kitty is a close cousin to wild cats. While life indoors is your cat's best option for a long, healthy life, you can prevent behavior problems, obesity and boredom by creating an environment that caters to her wild roots, including:

- **Outlet for predatory skills:**

Cats were meant to obtain food through hunting, so provide ample opportunity for stalking, pouncing, running and jumping. The best method is interactive play with a wand toy. Two 10-15 minute sessions a day, morning and evening, are ideal. Remember to let your cat ultimately "kill" her prey; this will prevent her from becoming frustrated. Always put the toy out of your cat's reach when playtime is over. Since these sessions are initiated by you, your cat will learn, "my person = fun."

- **Food puzzles:** [Dispensers](#) with holes give your cat the opportunity to "hunt" for kibble, providing



Toys give cats like [Mimi](#) an outlet for practicing their hunting skills



Trees and perches beside windows make life richer for cats like [Max](#)

a good mental and physical workout.

- **Vertical space:** If your cat could talk, she would tell you a cat tree can never be too tall, and you can never have too many. The ideal tree has platforms and a sleeping cubby, plus at least one pole covered with sisal rope. As with real estate, it's all about location: a spot beside a window will be more appealing to your cat than a dark corner.
- **Scratching posts:** Cats have both a physical and an emotional need to [scratch](#). Try different options to see if your cat is a "vertical scratcher" (in which case she'll prefer tall, sturdy sisal-rope-covered posts) or a "horizontal scratcher" (who will love corrugated [cardboard](#) boxes). An ideal spot for any post is near the main entrance to the home.

- **Catios:** Enclosures provide a great way for your cat to enjoy the outdoors safely. You can find both ready-made [catios](#) and plans for constructing your own. (Click [here](#) and scroll to page 5 for our veterinarian's article on building a catio.)

Enriching your cat's environment can transform a bored couch potato into a contented, interactive

Tabby's Place: The Constant Cat Café

The Tabby's Place cats have always been a few steps ahead of hot trends, and the popularity of cat cafés is no exception.

You don't have to travel to Tokyo, London or New York to find one of these chic cat-centric hotspots. Just plan a [trip](#) to Tabby's Place this summer, and plant yourself in our sunny [lobby](#). We promise you'll be lavished with love from the moment you arrive, as Lobby cats like [Morgan](#), [Casper](#) and [Oksana](#) cuddle up close. We'll be delighted to give you the grand tour, too. Please feel free to visit from 12-5, seven days a week – and you can tell 'em you've experienced the original cat café. – A.T.



Every day is a cat cafe for cuddlers like [Angel](#)

companion. Delight in your cat's wild side, and you'll both enjoy a happier life together.

Recommended Reading:

- [Healthy & Happy Indoor Cat](#), Drs. Robert J. Holmes & Leslie Larson Cooper
- [Basic Indoor Cat Needs](#), The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Indoor Pet Initiative
- [The Benefits of Using Puzzle Feeders for Cats](#), Pam Johnson-Bennett
- [Catteries and Catios](#), Best Friends Animal Society

Happy Endings: Natasha

Lisa Hunter, [Adopter](#)

Natasha is doing great! It took her awhile to come out of her shell, but now she runs the place.

Thank you for all the support



[Natasha cuddles up in her new home](#)

your team has provided. Natasha was definitely quite timid at first. That's understandable, though, as she lived at Tabby's Place for seven years. The sounds, smells and sights of a new home can be quite overwhelming, I'm sure.

For instance, Natasha just stared at the TV the first time she saw it, like, what the heck is that? The toilet was an interesting find as well.

But, as you can see, she has already found the comfy spots around the house. She also found the cat bed that was almost brand-new, which had belonged to my Chloe, who passed last May. None of my other cats would go in that bed, as they all knew it was Chloe's.



[Natasha](#)

But I never moved it, and I was so happy when Natasha claimed it as her own. The bed is filled again, and no one is fighting Natasha for it – it's all hers!

Thank you so much – Natasha has added a wonderful, fun dynamic to our house again.

Where Are They Now? Betsy

Barbara Brown, [Adopter](#)

In April of 2013, my husband and I decided to adopt our second cat from Tabby's Place as company for [Pansy](#). We fell in love with [Betsy](#) almost on sight. She was so adorable and affectionate. Her tongue was hanging out because



[Betsy retains her sweetly stuck-out tongue as she savors life in her new home](#)

she had to have all her teeth removed due to severe stomatitis, but her earlier troubles did not seem to faze her.

We kept the cats separated at first, and Betsy just hated that; she wanted to be with the rest of the family. Eventually, though, we got them together. Betsy would chase Pansy around the house, and Pansy would sometimes turn around and put her in her place. Pansy and Betsy were not real pals, but they got along well enough.

Several months later, Pansy developed cancer. Betsy began spending time with her, as if she knew that Pansy was a very sick kitty. In January of this year, we had to have our sweet Pansy euthanized.

We didn't want to leave Betsy without a feline companion, so it was back to Tabby's Place. It is always so difficult to pick just one special kitty...



[Sandrine and Betsy](#)

but then we saw Sandy (a.k.a. [Sandrine](#)). She is a calico like Betsy, and was not quite a year old when we met her. We brought her home and began the introduction process. Unfortunately, Betsy was not very happy about it. Sandy was so full of energy, and she began chasing Betsy around the house. The shoe is now on the other foot, and Betsy initially didn't like it so much. They have become friends, though, and at least they get exercise chasing each other. Betsy is a happy, healthy kitty who loves to sit on our lap and get belly rubs.

Thanks to Tabby's Place for the wonderful work you do. Without you, we wouldn't have our two special girls.