



New Beginnings: Tanzy

Angela Townsend, Development Director

Less than 48 hours after her birth, Tanzanite was attacked and shaken by an animal. By the time she reached Tabby's Place, little "Tanzy" was perilously cold, pierced with bite wounds, riddled with



Tanzy

parasites, and clinging to life.

No sooner did our vet team bring Tanzy back from the brink than they noticed that Tanzy was unable to use her back legs. Her trauma had so damaged her spine that she was paraplegic. Tanzy would need extraordinary care, and all the love we had to give.

Thanks to your generosity, that's what she received.

Twelve weeks later, Tanzy's a thriving toddler with no trace of self-pity. Whether she's scaling couches, wrestling other kittens, or entertaining over 5,000 Facebook fans on 6 continents, our baby girl is following in the fearless footsteps of paraplegic Tabby's Place cats like



Tanzy's life just keeps getting more beautiful

Tashi and Bagheera.

The best is yet to come for tiny Tanzy. Thank you for being part of her triumph.

2014 Tabby's Place Expenses

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

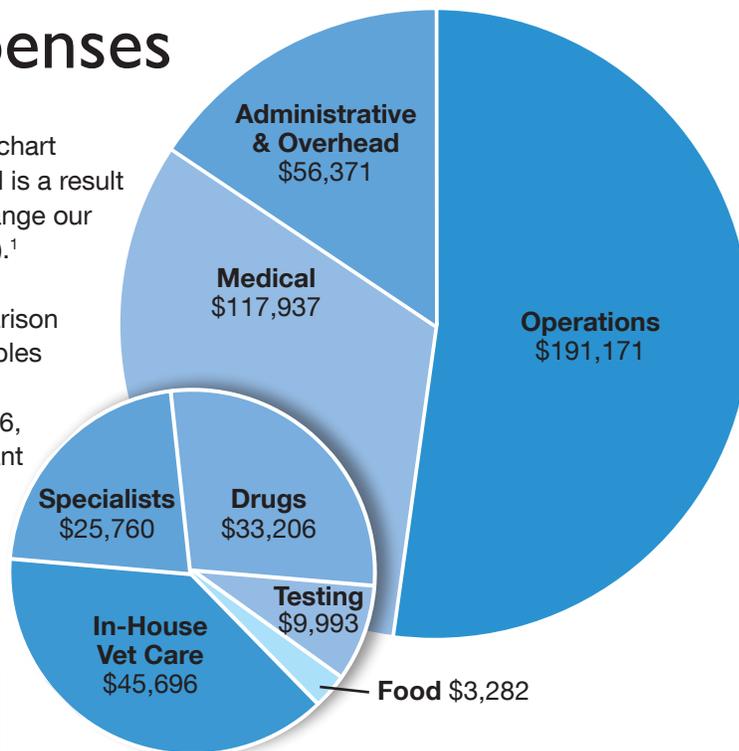
No, we didn't lose 6 months from our calendars. This chart represents our financial data for 1/1/2014 – 6/30/2014 and is a result of the one-time IRS filing we are doing to enable us to change our fiscal year to July 1 – June 30 (rather than a calendar year).¹

Because this is a one-time "strange" occurrence, I am going to present the raw results and dispense with comparison to previous periods, as this would not be an apples-to-apples evaluation.

Our income during this six-month period was \$368,096, with total expenses of \$365,479. This leaves us with a scant net profit.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 908-237-5300 ext 226 or jr@tabbysplace.org. Thank you for your generosity in meeting our cats' needs in all seasons.

- **Operations** expenses are tied directly to the care of the cats. This includes housing, feeding, cleaning, but excludes medical expenses.
- **Medical** expenses include all internal and external veterinary costs.
- **Administrative/Overhead** expenses are incurred on behalf of the enterprise as a whole and include fundraising and clerical expenses.



¹This is a common practice that puts the busiest time of year for accounting in the middle of the fiscal year. This makes it much easier to record the large volume of additional transactions that occur during the holiday season, when you make so many generous donations to help our cats.

Your Cat's Year of Awesome: The Serious Business of Fun

Your cat has more toys than Prince George...so why is she still so restless? When it comes to playtime, what matters isn't quantity, but quality – and quality has everything to do with your cat's personal trainer (you).

We wrap up our roster of resolutions for feline happiness with one of the best things you can do for your cat: *play*.

- Interactive play is healthy for your cat, for the same reasons exercise benefits humans: it helps maintain a healthy weight, gets the heart rate up, and releases a smorgasbord of feel-good hormones.



Kittens like [Marvin](#) always love to play

- With apologies to advertisers, most cats do not get “hours of enjoyment” from robotic toys. Our savvy cats quickly deem these toys dull; no real mouse goes in the same small orbit endlessly. But when you're on the other end of a toy, whether waving a wand or tossing mice, your cat doesn't know how her “prey” is going to move next – and that's fun.
- Playing with your cat is a powerful way to deepen your bond. When you play with her, your cat is flooded with trust-building hormones, making her feel closer to you. If your cat is shy, this can make her feel safe and happy with you. We regularly see frightened Tabby's Place cats make progress in trusting us when we play with them. Even a cat who may not like to be touched or held will delight in friendship through play.
- A played-with cat is a better-



Exercise is every bit as essential for adults like [Lester](#)



Seniors like [Hobbes](#) get gleefully kittenlike at playtime

behaved cat. If your kitty engages in the maddening “gravity game” of knocking down knick-knacks, or solicits your attention in ways like biting, she may simply be bored. Channel her party-animal ways into appropriate play.

- Goofy play is serious business. Even apart from health benefits, play is a fundamental part of being a cat. Your kitty has never lost her wild instincts, and she retains the drive to sharpen her skills of pouncing, stalking...and having a rowdy good time.

Recommended Reading:

- Dr. Jennifer Coates, [The Importance of Scheduling Playtime with Cats](#)
- Humane Society of the United States, [Cat Toys](#)
- Pam Johnson-Bennett, [Interactive Play Therapy](#)
- Ingrid King, [The Importance of Playtime for Cats](#)
- The Ohio State University Indoor Pet Initiative, [Toys and Identifying Prey Preference](#)
- Vetstreet, [Why Exercise is Important for Cats](#)



**ATHLETES
FOR
ANIMALS.**

Tabby's Place thanks **Athletes for Animals** for a generous grant supporting our work with feral cats. **Our cats are your biggest fans!**



Spaying and neutering: what, why and when?

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Have you ever wondered why veterinarians encourage you to spay or neuter your cat? In addition to reducing the number of homeless pets, there are medical and

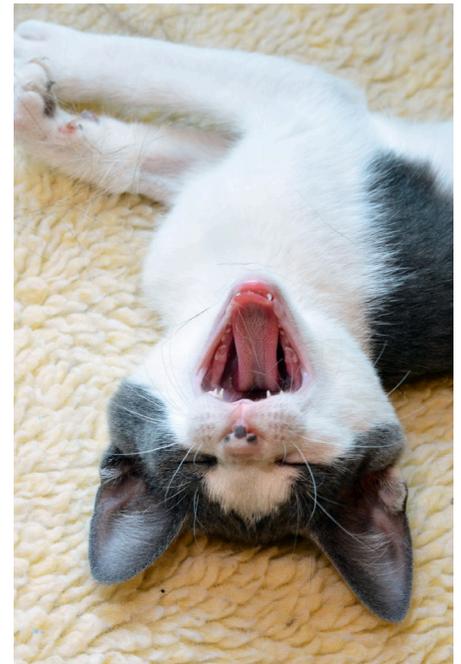


If they hadn't come to Tabby's Place, Violet and her sisters would have been put to sleep in a Georgia shelter because of overcrowding. Spaying and neutering saves lives.

behavioral benefits.

Let's start with some definitions: A *neuter* is surgical removal of the testicles. A *spay* is surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. By removing the sex organs, we drastically decrease the production of the sex hormones, creating several benefits:

- Neutered males are less apt to roam (if they are outdoors), urine-mark in the house, and fight with other cats. Less fighting means reduced bite wounds and disease, such as FIV and feline leukemia.
- A female spayed before 6 months of age has a 91% reduction in the risk of developing mammary tumors. Spaying between 6 and 12 months provides an 86% reduction; between 13-24 months, there is an 11% reduction. Spaying after two years of age yields no reduction in risk.
- Spaying also eliminates the possibility of uterine and ovarian tumors and prevents *pyometra*, a common uterine infection.
- Spaying prevents a female going



Kittens like Piccadilly don't stress over being spayed

“into heat,” which occurs every few weeks from spring until fall, causing discomfort, nighttime vocalization and, potentially, urine marking.

Spaying or neutering your cat will benefit both of you – and prevent more cats from finding themselves in hopeless situations.

Give Life This Holiday

As the holiday season barrels towards us like a snowball, are you stumped searching for meaningful gifts? If your loved ones have more



Your holiday gift can provide life-saving care for a darling like Divya

candles than they can handle, and their “Christmas sweaters” need their own closet, the cats are here to help.

This year, you can save cats for Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa. Avoid the mobs at the mall, steer clear of needless clutter, and show your loved ones how much you cherish them by saving lives in their names:

- Donate in honor or in memory
- “Adopt” a needy cat or kitten as a gift sponsorship, and we'll send updates and photos all year long
- Send a Virtual Gift Basket that won't take up any closet space, but that will save cats with needs like diabetes, heart disease and old age



Please nurture needy cats like Diego this holiday season

- Check out our Gift Catalog for all the ways you can love family, friends and cats this holiday season

Forever Loved: Jenny

Jonathan Rosenberg

All-white cats are always at a premium, and our Jenny was no exception. This sweet, feisty girl was adopted quickly, despite being 9 years old. We were thrilled for Jenny, as she was not “overly fond” of other cats and was going to have a home to herself.

But, five years later, Jenny was returned to us: daughter off to college, divorce, new girlfriend, etc. We were glad to have her back, but sad for her. She was now 14 and much less adoptable. In addition, her dislike of cats resurfaced quickly. She began to obsessively pull her fur out in large clumps.

We moved Jenny to the Lobby, where she blossomed. She



Jenny

was the beautiful *grande dame*, acknowledging visitors from her chair with a slight tip of her head. People were drawn to her, and she luxuriated in the attention. Once Jenny had enough of someone, she dismissed them with a sharp rap of her paw. She suffered no fools and was quick to show the boys in the Lobby that she was not to be messed with.

At 17, Jenny was our eldest cat and doing wonderfully, with only a slight decrease in kidney function. Without warning, however, Jenny appeared to have gone blind one morning. We were not alarmed, having been through this often enough to know that it was likely due to high blood pressure. In any case, lack of eyesight is a minimal disability for a cat.

But it quickly became apparent that something else was going

on with Jenny. While some of her eyesight returned, she was increasingly agitated. When nothing untoward showed up on blood work or her physical exam, we began to suspect a brain tumor.

Jenny was in no shape to undergo an MRI and, potentially, brain surgery, so we treated her presumptively, in hopes of shrinking the “supposed” tumor. She did not improve, however, and her quality of life was disappearing rapidly.

It was time to let her go. It was very difficult. We had spent so much time with Jenny over the years, and it was hard seeing her in this mental state. The staff surrounded her, while Ginny, her favorite person, held her gently. She has left a huge hole in our hearts. The Lobby will never be the same.

We love you, Baby Girl.



Jenny was Tabby's Place's oldest cat and longest-time resident



Jenny's great beauty was matched only by her feisty spirit

♥ New Arrivals Need Your Love ♥

If you have a heart for the cats others overlook, our newest Special Needs cats need you.



Wolfie

Please visit our gallery of sponsorable Special Needs kitties to meet our newest faces. In addition to tiny Tanzy, the following sweethearts need sponsors like you:

- Bashful, big-hearted FIV+ Wolfie, rescued from the grounds of a military prison
- Dainty Pepita, incontinent but unsinkable
- Mushy Meatball, a diabetic senior with a heart full of love

Please welcome one of our

newest residents by becoming a sponsor today.



Meatball

Warm Their Hearts

You see the stray cats slinking around dumpsters or peeking out of old barns, and you wonder: *what will they do when it gets cold? How can I help them?*

This winter, you can help keep stray and feral cats safe and warm by [donating](#) to Tabby's Place's ongoing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) work. We locate, spay/neuter and provide medical treatment for free-roaming cats, then arrange for them to receive ongoing care and love – including warm shelters – in safe



You can wrap feral cats in your love this winter

outdoor colonies.

Please warm up this winter for stray cats by sponsoring the [TNR Fund](#). Every month, you'll change the world for stray cats, and we'll

send you updates and photos of the kitties you're helping.

Winter can be fearsome for feral cats – but with [your help](#), they'll know the warmth of being loved.

Ask the Behaviorist

Help! My cat is scratching the furniture!

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

It's a classic frustration: you purchased a scratching post, but your cat still sinks her claws into the sofa. Fortunately, you can fix this:

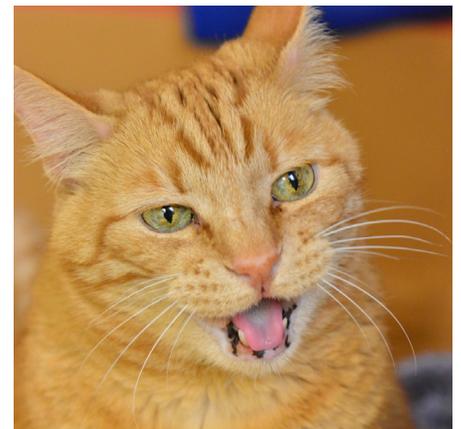
- Make the sofa unappealing using double sided tape. Cats detest sticky substances in contact with their paws, and will quickly learn to avoid the area.
- Never yell at your cat for scratching the “wrong”



Whether or not they have as many toes as [Bo](#), all cats need to scratch

surface. This is not only ineffective, but will teach your cat to associate you with bad experiences.

- Next, provide a scratching surface that is appealing to your cat. Many cats are “vertical scratchers” who enjoy tall posts. The ideal post is at least 2½' tall, with a wide base. This allows the cat to lean into scratching without fear of the post moving. The post should be covered with rough material like sisal rope. Avoid a completely carpeted post if you have wall to wall carpeting. Your cat cannot be expected to know which carpet is off limits.
- If your cat enjoys horizontal scratching, try a corrugated cardboard scratch-box large enough to accommodate your cat standing on top of it.
- Place the new scratching surface adjacent to the area your cat had been scratching. You might want to rub a little catnip or place a treat on it to encourage your cat to investigate.
- Provide multiple scratching posts/boxes based on your cat's routine. Behaviorists have noted that scratching appears to mark transitions in a cat's activity. A cat



[Declawing has been associated with behavior problems such as inappropriate elimination \(an ongoing issue for sweet, declawed \[Mango\]\(#\)\)](#)

may wake and proceed to scratch on his way to his food dishes. After breakfast, he may scratch again *en route* to his resting area. Another favorite scratching location is the main entrance to the house. Upon greeting their owners at the door, many cats immediately seek out an object to scratch. Scratching appears to serve as an emotional release.

If we pay attention to their habits, our cats will tell us where to locate their scratching posts, and which kind they like best. We just need to become better listeners.

Happy Endings: Mystique

[Beth Swanson, Adopter](#)

William Shakespeare once wrote, “*And though she be but little, she is fierce.*” As it turns out, he was talking about my cat.

This January, a lost little calico wandered outdoors, badly injured. Fortunately, she made her way to Tabby’s Place. If you happen to be a homeless cat, that’s about the most wonderful, serendipitous thing that can happen. The sad little calico was reborn as the brave and dauntless “Mystique.”

At some point in her outdoor



[Mystique in her T-shirt-clad days at Tabby’s Place](#)

journey, Mystique had tried to free herself from the collar she was wearing. She became stuck, and the collar embedded itself around her neck and under her arm. She was also starving, badly matted, and suffering from ringworm. The long road to recovery would involve surgical consultations, body casts, and even putting Mystique in baby clothes to keep her injury clean and dry.

It was here that I entered the story. I had just lost my beloved tortie, McKenzie, and for weeks I sat at my computer, scrolling through shelter websites, hoping for a sign that McKenzie approved of my adopting a new cat. Finally, the sign appeared: there on my Facebook newsfeed was a picture of Mystique wearing a bright yellow T-shirt. I don’t know if you believe in love at first sight, but I do. Two days later, I



[Brinley, nee Mystique, is cherished](#)

visited her at Tabby’s Place.

So began six months of Sunday visits. I would sit on the hospital floor and play with Mystique, snuggle her, hold her paw as she slept, whatever would help her recover.

After 218 days in the hospital, Mystique came home with me. I renamed her Brinley Rose

(after “Rosenberg”), so she will have a new name and a new start, but always remember her Tabby’s Place family.

Brinley’s story befits a Shakespearean heroine: she suffered fiercely; she fought fiercely; she persevered fiercely. I can’t help but stare at her sometimes, wondering how she made it through so much. Often, she stares back at me with a quizzical look: “*Is this real? Am I really home now?*”

Yes, Brinley, this is real. You are home. And I love you...fiercely.

Where Are They Now? Mimi

[Dave & Heather Knight, Adopters & Sponsors](#)

Fans of the “[Cat with All the Likes](#)” will be happy to know that



[Mimi loves every inch of her forever home](#)

[Mimi](#) continues to win hearts in her new home.

Mimi’s brother Puck, nearly 3 times her size, is smitten with her. When they aren’t romping, they curl up together for kisses and snuggles. If ever Mimi cries out (usually when

she’s upset with us for clipping her nails or giving her medicine), Puck comes running to her aid.

When it’s time for human affection, Mimi lets us know with insistent chirps and trills. She loves being petted and even brushed — something her long-haired brothers have a hard time understanding.

Mimi has adjusted well to the lap of luxury. She loves playing on the multi-level pagoda, chasing string toys and the elusive Red Bug, and napping on the window perch, or anywhere near her brothers.

On the medical front, Mimi has visited both her regular vet and a veterinary ophthalmologist. We’ve been able to wean her off of all medications except her lysine “treats” and the occasional antibacterial cream for her eye.

As Mimi romps with Puck, her older brother Fosse is enjoying a break from Puck’s pounces. Fosse



[Mimi and new brothers Fosse and Puck have plenty of love – and snuggly spots – to go around](#)

has also taken a shine to Mimi’s bed — a parting gift from one of her wonderful Tabby’s Place friends. He can only get about half of his 22-pound frame into it, but that doesn’t stop him.

Mimi has brought such joy to our lives. Her antics keep us laughing, and her sweet disposition charms everyone she meets. We are so lucky to have her.