



New Beginnings: Knox

Angela Townsend, Development Director

Like the fort that shares his name, Knox is made of strong stuff.

Inner strength enabled Knox to survive a siege of suffering. In



Knox is learning to trust us with his heart of gold

addition to being homeless and FIV+, Knox was living with a “dead” leg. But winter’s arrival threatened Knox’s best defenses.

At that point, angels broke into Knox’s story. A big-hearted rescuer scooped Knox from the street. Through a generous Circle of Compassion grant from Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Knox received life-saving surgery to remove his leg ...and found a haven at Tabby’s Place.

The best is yet to come for



Knox

Knox. Soulful and sweet, our little guy is letting down his defenses as he learns our love is secure. With apologies to Ft. Knox, we know we’ve found the Knox with the true heart of gold.

2014 Tabby's Place Expenses

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

In Newsletter vol 12.4, I told you that we were changing our fiscal year. After engaging a new accounting firm and further discussion, we decided to stick with the calendar year.

If that made your eyes glaze over with boredom, not to worry: just read on to see our financial summary for 2014.

Our total expenses for 2014 were \$957,474, broken out by category in the pie chart to the right. Compared to 2013, we decreased Operations and Administrative costs, while significantly increasing our Medical expenditures (from \$297,265 to \$427,784, an increase of 43%).

This increase was due to the expansion of our mission to include Community Cats (free-roaming and feral cats).* This included the purchase of new medical equipment and additional wages and medical

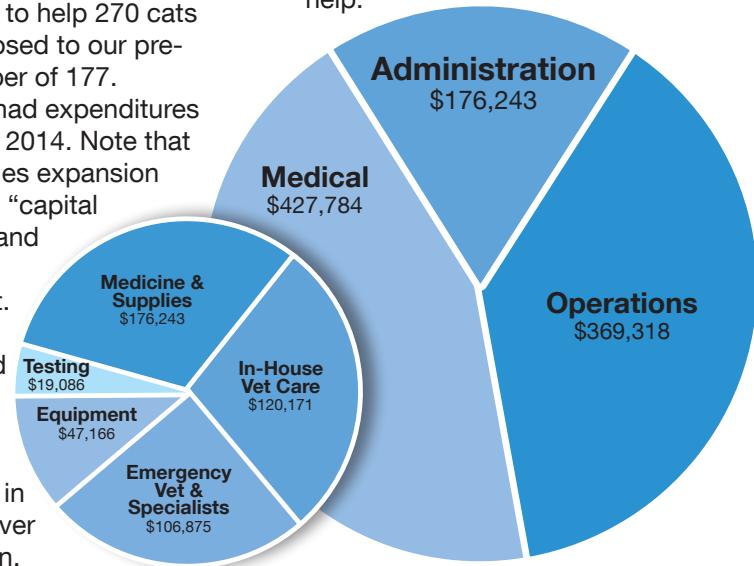
supply costs to handle the additional cats. In addition to medical expenses, our capital improvement costs in renovating the new area totaled \$179,814.

I note with pride that the increased costs paid off in spades, as we were able to help 270 cats in 2014, as opposed to our pre-expansion number of 177.

All told, we had expenditures of \$1,137,288 in 2014. Note that this figure includes expansion costs, which are “capital improvements” and not included in the chart at right. This was nicely counterbalanced with an income of \$980,299, plus funds of \$217,569 raised in 2013 and held over for the expansion.

This resulted in a net of just over \$60,000.

This was a very exciting and rewarding year for Tabby’s Place, as we began our mission expansion in earnest. Needless to say, this would not be possible without your generous gifts. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and look forward to helping even more cats with your help.



*See page 2 for details.

Notes: The federal and state IRS filings for Tabby's Place are not due until mid-year. But, in the interest of keeping you informed, we have always provided a financial summary and analysis as early as possible in the year. Please note: 1. The numbers are the best we have at this time and, as such, have not been audited or subject to detailed scrutiny and validation. 2. The numbers herein will differ slightly from the legal filings due to (A) differences in the timing for the recognition of income and expenses, and (B.) the fact that we have ignored some areas required in formal accounting (such as depreciation expense). If you are still reading this, you may be interested in our official filings, which can be obtained by contacting Angela (908-237-5300 x235 or at tabbysplace.org).

A New Dawn for Community Cats

You may know them as “ferals,” “strays,” or just “the cats behind Dunkin’ Donuts®.” These cats skirt the borders of your life, and you shiver to contemplate the sickness, hunger and endless pregnancies they endure. But thanks to you, these cats can look forward to a



Maybelle lives a happy, healthy (and rather well-fed) life in one of Tabby's Place's TNR colonies

Hungry for more cat tales? Visit the [Tabby's Place blog](#).

brighter 2015 with help from Tabby's Place.

Through your generosity, Tabby's Place has completed our hospital expansion. This is good news for all the Tabby's Place kitties – but especially the community cats in our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. With your help, we will ultimately reach all ~1,100 community cats in our surrounding townships.

Just imagine: all the outdoor kitties in our entire community, neutered and healed of their hurts in a world-class medical facility. You're making this possible for them, and we'd love to thank you in person.

Tabby's Place extends our special thanks to the lead supporters of our TNR work:

- [Paws and Claws Society, Inc.](#)



Thank you for helping to keep the smiles on our community cats' faces!

- The Norman E. and Gwyneth L. Staats Foundation
- [ASPCA](#)
- The Eric Holby Animal Welfare Foundation
- [The Humane Society of the United States](#)

-A.T.

Sweet Starts: Introducing Your New Cat

From the moment you met your kitty, you couldn't wait to start her new life with you. But take your time: properly introducing her to your home can mean the difference



A proper introduction is especially essential for cats like Boris who aren't fans of their own species.

between frustrated friction and years of purring peace.

Follow the appropriate steps for your specific situation:

• You have no other cats: You might think it's fine to open the carrier and let your cat see her whole new world at once. But cats are overwhelmed by too much change, which may cause them to hide. Ease your cat's transition by starting her in a smaller room, with everything she'll need.

Spend time loving her in her “safe room,” and she'll come to associate you with security. Once your kitty seems confident and curious about the world beyond her haven, gradually open up new areas for her to explore (without forcing her to leave her room).

Once she seems comfortable throughout the home, you can relocate her essentials. If you'd

like to move her litter box, start by placing a second box in your preferred location. Once she's using it consistently, you can remove the original box from her safe room.

• You have other cats: Follow the steps above, but divide your time and affection between the new kitty's safe room and your resident cat(s)' world. ***It is essential to keep the new cat separate from your other cat(s) for at least a few days.*** This will give your resident kitties the opportunity to smell the newcomer – and to accept that there is a newcomer – before having to interact with her. It will also offer your new cat a chance to know and trust you before facing off with her new “siblings.”

Inevitably, the cats will be

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curious about one another, sniffing under the door, perhaps hissing or growling. This is normal. Create a positive association between the cats by feeding them on opposite sides of the closed door and giving them each lots of love. Switch the cats' blankets daily, so they can get used to one another's scent. If the kitties are playful, tie two small toys together on either side of the door, so your cats can play with one another.



Even easygoing sprites like little Rose appreciate a gentle introduction to feel secure in your home.

Once they both seem more curious than anxious or upset about what's on the other side of the door, **gradually** allow them to interact. You may first do so through a barrier like a baby gate. Again, some growling or hissing is normal, so don't scold the cats or force a full introduction.

After both cats seem calmly curious about each other, allow them a supervised interaction. Once you're sure the kitties are getting along, they can have gradually-longer unsupervised visits. Extend the time

they're together until you're confident there's no risk of fighting.

- **You have trouble at any step of the introduction:** Don't panic. You can always take a step back in the process. It's best to err on the side of patience. Let your cats set the pace, and don't move on to the next step until there is peace in the valley. – A.T.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Tabby's Place, [Introducing Your New Cat](#)
- ASPCA, [Introducing Your Cat to a New Cat](#)
- Best Friends Animal Society, [Introducing a New Cat](#)
- The Humane Society of the United States, [Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets](#)
- Pam Johnson-Bennett, [How to Introduce a Second Cat](#)

The Case for Early Spay/Neuter

Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

In our [last issue](#), we discussed why spaying or neutering your cat benefits you both. Today, we'll examine the ideal age for the procedure.

Traditionally, veterinarians recommended conducting spay or neuter surgery (both also called gonadectomy) at 6 months of age. Over the past 25 years, sterilizing cats as young as two months of

age and greater than 2 pounds (known as pediatric spay/neuter) has become common.

Although this reduces the incidence of unwanted litters, veterinarians were initially concerned about the safety of sterilizing such young animals. With that in mind, there have been many rigorous studies looking at the safety of pediatric gonadectomy since 1982.

Researchers have concluded that the procedure is safe, and presents no risk of increased long- or short-term physical or behavioral problems. In fact, researchers add, sterilizing kittens younger than 5.5 months of age may provide certain long-term benefits, especially for male cats.

In addition to safely helping to prevent pet overpopulation, pediatric spay/neuter also benefits the individual kitten:

- Pediatric spay/neuter is easier, faster, and less stressful for both patient and surgeon.
- Kittens recover more rapidly, and seem to experience less pain, than mature cats undergoing the same procedure.
- There are fewer complications



Little Nike wasn't too little to benefit from being spayed before her adoption.

associated with pediatric spay/neuter than in surgery performed in more mature animals.

Pediatric spay/neuter benefits each kitten undergoing the procedure, while helping to reduce the number of cats born into hopeless situations. We encourage this procedure, and require it in kittens adopted from Tabby's Place.



Squiggy was neutered at Tabby's Place once he hit the two-pound mark.

Let's Stay Together: You Don't Have to Give Up Your Cat

You promised you'd love your cat forever. You just never imagined you'd find yourself in this hard situation. If you think your only option is to say goodbye, take heart: most cat crises can be solved in a way that keeps you together:

- **Moving:** There are few things more stressful than changing house. But this hectic time won't last forever, and when it's over, you'll be grateful you kept your faithful friend. You can find listings of pet-friendly rental housing [here](#).

Facing a "no pets" policy? Talk with your landlord about a pet deposit agreement and/or additional monthly fee to keep your cat. Many landlords are willing to be flexible about this. (Often, "no pets" policies exist to keep out large dogs, so your landlord may gladly consider your cat.) Still stuck? Continue to seek pet-friendly housing while temporarily boarding your cat with a family member, vet or pet hotel.

- **Inappropriate elimination:** This is one of the hardest things to live with, but it can often be treated. First, bring your cat to a veterinarian to rule out medical



Through love and commitment, Ada's adopters worked through her inappropriate elimination issues.

causes. Something as simple as a urinary tract infection can cause a cat to avoid her litter box. Unspayed/unneutered cats are far more likely to urinate outside the box, and sterilization is an easy fix.

No medical problems? Cats are sensitive to changes in routine, so any changes to their litter box (litter type, location etc.) can cause a cat to eliminate elsewhere. If

a recent change has sparked your cat's behavior, switch back to the old box/litter.

Since this is a complex, yet fixable, issue, we'll be devoting an entire article to it in our next newsletter. In the meantime, check out the additional resources below.

- **Pregnancy:**

The much-feared toxoplasmosis is

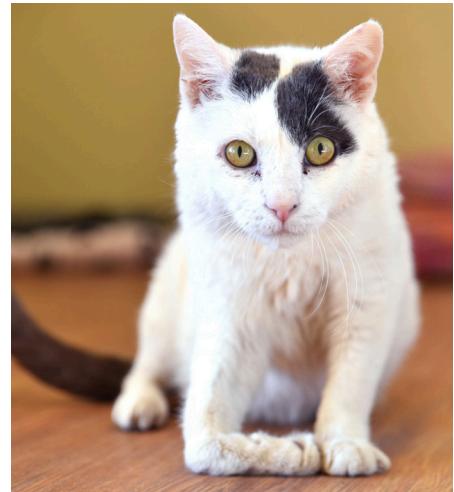
extremely rare among indoor-only cats. To completely eliminate any risk of contracting toxoplasmosis from your cat, each time you clean the litter box, simply use disposable gloves and wash your hands immediately afterward (or have another family member take over). That's it – risk of toxoplasmosis eliminated.

- **New baby:** To help your cat welcome the new baby, prepare her throughout your pregnancy. Play tapes of baby noises, set up nursery furniture in advance, and make any inevitable changes to your cat's routine ahead of baby's arrival. This will help your cat to accept these changes, and not to form a negative association with the little newcomer.

- **Allergies:** Several members of the Tabby's Place staff are allergic to cats. How do they manage



Meatball promises he'd be a gentle companion for any new baby.



Cats like [Casper](#) are determined to overcome adversity. We can borrow their courage to work through hard times together.

eight hours a day with over 100 felines? In many cases, mild to moderate allergies can be relieved by over-the-counter medications, prescription medication or immunotherapy ("allergy shots").

In your own home, vacuum frequently; wash all bedding in hot water at least twice monthly; run an air purifier; and keep your cat out of the bedroom. Wash your hands often, and don't rub your eyes after interacting with your cat. Regularly bathing and brushing your cat (or having a professional groomer do so) can also relieve your symptoms.

– A.T.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Moving/Pet-Friendly Apartments:

- [People With Pets](#)
- [The Pet Realty Network](#)

Inappropriate Elimination:

- [Tabby's Place, Inappropriate Elimination](#) and [Inappropriate Elimination – What to Do](#)

Babies and Cats:

- [Tabby's Place, Babies & Cats](#)
- [About Cats, You CAN Keep Your Cat During Your Pregnancy](#)
- [ASPCA, Cats and Babies](#)

Allergies:

- [Tabby's Place, Allergies & Cats](#)
- [Petfinder, Living with Cat Allergies](#)

General Resources:

- [Tabby's Place, Giving Up a Cat](#)
- [Dr. Marty Becker, 5 Reasons Cats Are Given Up for Adoption – and How to Avoid These Problems](#)
- [Paws4Hope, Main Reasons for Abandoning/Surrendering a Cat](#)

Forever Loved: Babs

Babs left this world peacefully, lying in her bed in the Community Room. We had formed a small circle around her, and we each spent time saying goodbye. Over the next two days, there was an outpouring of love for Babs from volunteers, as well as the kind donors who had



We came to cherish Babs' quirky beauty in her decade at Tabby's Place.

sponsored her. We came to cherish Babs' quirky beauty in her decade at Tabby's Place.

As I contemplated the loss, I realized that Babs had given us an incredible gift. You see, Babs was not a "likable" cat by any normal criteria. She came to us with huge areas of missing fur and a strangely-shaped head that made her look like an opossum. She moved awkwardly, like some kind of lumbering reptile.

And she had a personality to match. She didn't like other cats and, on a good day, would just tolerate human attention.

It is easy to love a kitten or a beautiful long-haired lap cat. But we were treated to a wonderful gift when Babs joined the Tabby's Place family. We loved her not because



Babs

she was cute, or playful, or loving, or gentle. We loved her because she was...Babs. We didn't expect her to love us back, or to be appreciative of our efforts, or to pay us back in any way.

And I think that was the true gift she showed us: to love without expectation.

It was an honor to love and care for Babs. I miss her greatly. I am glad our paths crossed. I hope they'll cross again. – J.R.



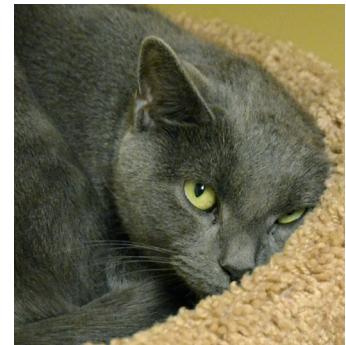
Your generosity can help Dina learn to believe in love.

Snuggles for the Shy

Do you have a soft spot in your heart for timid kitties? Other people might not have the patience, but you know that behind those worried whiskers are hearts of gold.

Shy cats are, sadly, harder to adopt than their gregarious neighbors, and many bashful kitties wait for several years at Tabby's Place before finding forever homes. We love having them with us...and you can help make their time here sweeter.

Please give your heart to a shy Tabby's Place cat. Click [here](#) to sponsor a kitty who needs your help in learning to trust. – A.T.



Sneaky is still a little shy...but so very sweet.

Everlasting Love: A Permanent Memorial to Your Cat at Tabby's Place

She's no longer in your lap, but your cat lives in your heart every day. Since she changed your life, you can do the same for needy kitties in her



Etch your cat's name into history with a memorial brick at Tabby's Place.

memory.

Click [here](#) to have a beautiful brick engraved in your cat's honor for the Memorial Walkway at Tabby's Place. Your generous donation of \$500 or more will provide love and stellar care for kitties from hopeless situations.

Each Tabby's Place cat is waiting for a love like you shared with your kitty. Please make their wait a little warmer by paying tribute to your amazing cat. – A.T.



The Memorial Walkway leads to Cherny's Garden, a tranquil space honoring our feline loved ones.

Happy Endings: Sapphire & Maxine

Melanie Amoroso, Adopter, Volunteer & Sponsor

Editor's note: We're doubly delighted anytime an adopter takes a pair of our cats. But when she opens her heart to two Special Needs cats... well, it's time to whip out the party hats and noisemakers. We can't thank Melanie enough for adopting diabetic senior Maxine and mobility-impaired baby Sapphire.

When I first met Maxine, she looked sad and miserable. Although she received all the love and care she could want at Tabby's Place, she avoided the other cats and hunkered down in the back of a crate. Even after I brought her home, she would try to bite and scratch when I approached her.



Maxine soaks up the sun in her new home.

But after several months at home with me, Maxine is beginning to become affectionate. She's gone from not letting me touch her to being able to pet her, and she nudges me for love and attention. One day, I even had the glorious opportunity to hear her purr. She has been happy and content, and I treat her like the princess she knows she is.

Not long after adopting Maxine, I brought home a kitten (from another rescue group) named Cleopatra. Cleo needed someone to play with, so I adopted little Sapphire. Despite having survived an injury that left one of

her legs paralyzed, Sapphire is full of spunk and plays with my other kittens like she has no disability. I watch for when she tries to scratch her ear with her bad leg – which she can't quite do – and I scratch it for her. She is very happy and loves running and jumping just like the normal kitten she thinks she is.

And we think this is the very picture of a perfect family. Thank you for loving your Tabby's Place girls, Melanie!



Sapphire cuddles with her new siblings.

Where Are They Now? Oksana

When love is right, it's right from the start. So it has been for one little black cat and her human soulmate.

Oksana came to Tabby's Place at the end of 2012, discarded by a caretaker who dismissed her as "sickly" and "difficult." While the emaciated cat was, indeed, in need of medical attention, she was exceptionally easy to adore. Oksana delighted in our love even as she battled bizarre medical issues.

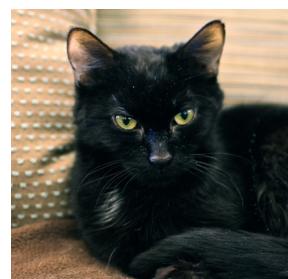


As sweet as her life was at Tabby's Place, Oksana's found true bliss in her forever home.

Two years and one tracheal stent later, Oksana was in perfect health, but still awaiting a home of her own. While she'd made herself comfortable in the Tabby's Place lobby, our exuberant girl could never quite get enough affection.

During the same period, a wonderful woman named Arlene lost three soulmates. Arlene had rescued orphaned kittens ChiChi and Callie from the street, nurturing them back to life with a doll bottle and 'round-the-clock care. At the ages of 21 and 19, ChiChi and Callie each died in Arlene's loving arms. They were followed by Arlene's cherished cockapoo, Tasha. At age eighty-five, Arlene knew her "dog days" were over...but she had boundless love to give to another animal.

The day after Christmas, Arlene and her daughter visited Tabby's Place. No sooner had Arlene sat down on one of our Lobby couches, than a little black cat bounced into



Oksana

her lap. Arlene and Oksana knew that love had come for them at last. Their bond was so immediate that Arlene knew she'd chosen – or rather, been chosen by – the one.

"I loved her right away," Arlene admits, "and Oksana is a cat who knows when she's loved."

Each morning, Arlene reports, "Oksana gets up with me and rubs her face on mine. I take her head and kiss it and say, 'I love you, sweetheart. You've got another day with me!'" We think Arlene's best years are yet to come, but she's quick to note, "I tell Oksana, 'You'll be with me forever – and if God doesn't see it that way, don't worry, my daughter and granddaughters will love you.'"

If Oksana should forget, for even an instant, how much she's cherished, Arlene is happy to remind her. "You've come to the right place, sweetheart," Arlene reassures the little black cat. "And remember, I don't own you – you own me." – A.T.