



## New Beginnings: Bacon

Angela Townsend, Development Director

Yes, his name is really "Bacon." But that's not the quirkiest thing about our boy.

Within hours of arriving at Tabby's Place, the small silver tabby



Bacon

scared us all – especially himself.

BANG! What was that sound? Every few hours, Bacon slammed his body into the walls of his Quarantine crate. By the time we ran to his side, all we saw was a confused cat.

Finally, our vet tech caught Bacon's episode in action: he was having electric shock-like seizures just as he entered the restorative sleep cycle. Poor Bacon was never getting restful sleep.

But since Bacon is a Tabby's Place cat, there's hope for a fully-rested future. We're treating him with medication, and we have a 24-hour camera trained on his room to monitor his episodes. (Bacon's roommate Bubbles especially enjoys mugging for the camera.)

Although he sometimes grumbles as though he's not yet had his coffee, groggy Bacon is a sweet soul, and we are grateful he made



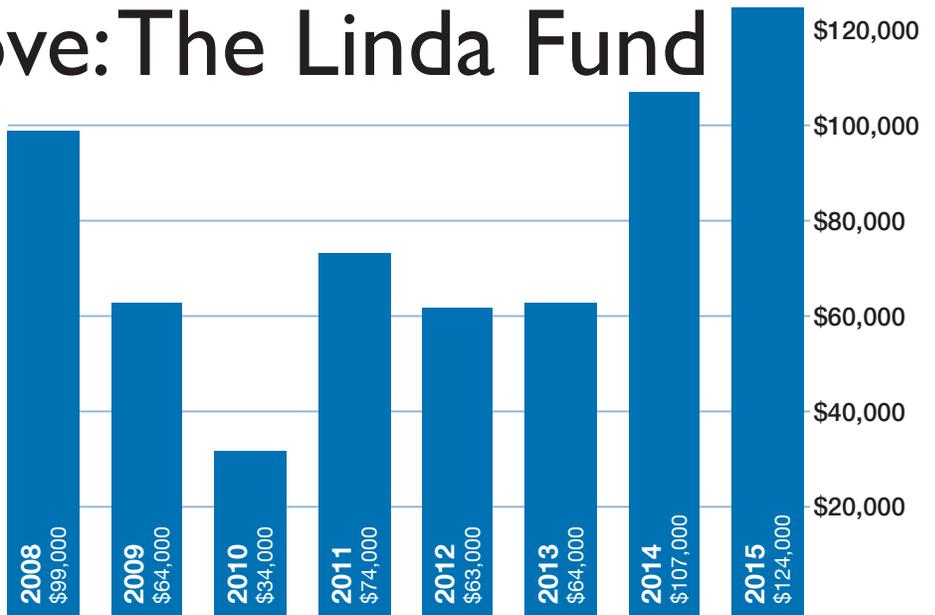
Bacon's life hasn't always been a bed of roses – but we're working on that

his way to Tabby's Place. Thank you for making it possible for us to save cats like Bacon.

## Life-Saving Love: The Linda Fund

Thanks to you, we can keep the Tabby's Place promise: once a cat comes to us, he will receive everything he needs to thrive, regardless of cost. That means cats like Bacon never go without the life-saving treatments they need.

To keep this promise, Tabby's Place created the Linda Fund, which funds our cats' emergency and specialty care. Watch your inbox for our annual Linda Fund Matching Challenge soon – and check out how much you've helped our cats through the years:



# For the Love of Honey: Tribute to a Special Needs Cat

Linda and Roger Covell, [Donors & Friends](#)

*Editor's note: In addition to generous support, you provide us with encouragement every day. We wanted to share one of the most inspiring stories of sacrificial love we've heard.*

Thirteen thousand, one hundred forty...give or take a few.

That's the number of times Honey stood patiently and had his bladder squeezed over twelve years. It took a few seconds, three times every day, and then he happily bounced off.

On Halloween 2003, Honey was hit by a car. The accident damaged the nerves controlling his bladder and bowel functions, and Honey's family understandably did not want him in the house under these circumstances. He lived outside until we adopted him three months later.

When he joined our family, Honey was nine months old and



Honey's life was full of love and warmth

suffering from a severe urinary tract infection. Our vet treated his infection and installed the first of many catheters. Our next stop was Cornell Feline Health Center. After twelve days, Honey came home with a tiny spigot to drain his bladder, since he refused to keep the catheters in!

That worked...but it was clear this kitten was not going to spend his life being drained by a spigot. Through all of his treatments, Honey was a sweet, loving and playful kitten.

When Honey came home, it was soon obvious his nerves would never heal. Our vet taught us to express his bladder by gently squeezing it. Roger "got it" on the very first try. So began Honey and Roger's relationship of sharing "potty times" for the next twelve years.

Honey was a confident, independent and loving cat who took life as it came and appeared grateful for it all. I learned a lot from him. In most cases, he handled things better than I did.

Honey never had any illnesses until blood appeared in his urine last February. An ultrasound showed a tiny, inoperable growth in his bladder. We used medication to slow the growth of the tumor and prayed. Honey didn't know he had a tumor, so it didn't bother him at all. For months, we almost forgot he had cancer.

Roger kept track of the size as



Honey the courageous, cherished Special Needs cat

he squeezed Honey each day. When it became obvious that Honey's bladder couldn't hold much more without causing pain, it was time to let Honey go.

Even on his last day of life, Honey seemed happy. We scheduled his release for the time Honey would be curled on our bed, so his final sleep would be an extension of his daily nap. In true Honey style, he lifted his head to greet his trusted vet friend and gently went to kitty Heaven, wrapped in the arms of his loving owners.

Honey was one amazing cat. I believe he arrived at Heaven's gates with his usual sweet gratitude.

*Honey was blessed beyond measure to have the Covells for his family. For the Tabby's Place cats, YOU are their family. Please help us to care for our Special Needs "Honeys" with your loving support.*



**GIVE CATS YOUR LOVE!**

Visit [www.tabbysplace.org/donation.php](http://www.tabbysplace.org/donation.php)



# How Can I Help Make Sure Tabby's Place is there for Cats...Forever?

You've helped Tabby's Place to save lives for over twelve years. Together we've rejoiced and wept over the cats we love; together we've changed the course of history for each one.

But we're only getting started. Many more cats like Olive, Morgan and Princess Bubblegum will need us in the years ahead. We need you to help us keep our promise to them.

Please provide for our cats for decades to come by leaving a legacy of love. By remembering Tabby's Place in your will, you ensure that your legacy will be one of love for the most vulnerable creatures. Long after you've left this earth, your

goodness will echo in cats you save.

If you have questions about making a bequest to Tabby's Place,



Your legacy of love can save injured kittens like Tortini...

please feel free to contact Angela at [at@tabbysplace.org](mailto:at@tabbysplace.org), 908-237-5300 ext 235, or Jonathan at [jr@tabbysplace.org](mailto:jr@tabbysplace.org), 908-237-5300 ext 226. We would be honored to talk with you about how your love can outlast a lifetime. – A.T.



...and Special Needs seniors like Chester

# What's the Commotion over Catnip?

Nancy Meyer, Feline Behavioral Consultant, Volunteer, Benefactor & Adopter

If you share your home with a cat, you likely own a multitude of catnip items. What is this herb, and how can it benefit our felines?

Catnip is a member of the mint family. The active ingredient, Nepetalactone, creates an apparent euphoric or hallucinogenic response. It is safe and non-addictive.

Catnip is processed by the



Playful cats like McNulty don't need catnip to have fun...but they do enjoy it

olfactory (sense of smell) system. It can be detected in quantities as low as one part per billion.

Genetics determine whether or not your cat is among the 50-75% who respond to catnip. If a cat is going to respond, he'll first do so between 8 weeks and 6 months of age. Leopards, cougars, servals, and lynxes can react as strongly as housecats to catnip.

The catnip effect lasts for 5-15 minutes. During this time, you'll see your cat sniffing, licking, chewing, cheek and chin rubbing, and rolling. Cats' reactions vary from sedation and purring to agitation and growling. Not all brands of catnip are created equal, and quality can influence response.

After your cat has a catnip session, he'll be non-responsive to the herb for up to an hour, needing to "recover" before he's again receptive to its effect. If he's offered catnip too frequently, a cat's



Little Whoopi is almost old enough to begin reacting to catnip – if she has the gene for it

response can get "worn out."

I recommend giving catnip as a part of your cat's enrichment program every 2-3 weeks.

## RECOMMENDED READING:

- Big Cat Rescue, Do Tigers Like Catnip?
- Pam Johnson-Bennett, The Catnip Response & Helpful Tips About Catnip
- Amy Shojai, CABC: How Catnip Affects Cats

# Kittenhood is a Special Need

If you've scrolled through the [Special Needs cats](#) at Tabby's Place, you may have been surprised to see, among the diabetics and FIV+ cats... [kittens](#). Why?

Wee ones are vulnerable to particular dangers and diseases in their first year of life. Consider the Special Needs of kittenhood:

- **Physical frailty:** Kittens aren't as invincible as they feel. With tiny, growing bones and organs, they easily injure themselves or become trapped in dangerous spots. It's essential to supervise kittens when playing with toys or other animals, and not to let them explore alone.



[Newborns like Armand](#) are exceptionally fragile – but, thanks to you, also lavishly loved at Tabby's Place

Kittens should never roam outdoors.

- **Parasites:** Most kittens are born to mothers who have been living outdoors, making both mom and babies susceptible to parasites. In addition to routine dewormings, kittens should have fecal examinations, so they can be treated for parasites like roundworms, tapeworms, coccidia and Giardia.
- **Fleas:** Any cat outdoors is vulnerable to fleas, but these pests can be life-threatening to a kitten. Because of her small size, a kitten can become anemic due to blood loss from a flea infestation.
- **Diarrhea:** Between parasites and the transition from mama's milk to kitten food, a kitten is prone to diarrhea, which can be life threatening due to dehydration.
- **Curiosity:** Inquisitiveness is a charming trait...but it can also get kittens into trouble. Kittens are inclined to chew or eat everything, leading to poisoning, coughing or



[Kitten Fund sponsors](#) give our little ones something to sing about!

choking.

- **Etiquette:** Kittens learn feline social cues from mom and siblings, but patient [human socialization](#) is required to help them feel safe with people, and to learn not to bite and scratch.

Since they are so delicate, kittens should see a veterinarian at the first sign of trouble. Attentive caregivers are a kitten's best chance of a carefree, healthy babyhood.

It's estimated that 50% or more of kittens born outdoors never make it to adulthood. Fortunately, Tabby's Place kittens have the odds – and your love – in their favor. As “kitten season” begins, you can help nurture little ones through their tender months as a [Kitten Fund sponsor](#).

## Forever Loved: [Hobbes](#)

[Jonathan Rosenberg](#), Founder & Executive Director

Hurricane Sandy brought FIV+ [Hobbes](#) to Tabby's Place, afflicted with ringworm. Through 6 weeks of anti-fungal treatment, he was a bundle of anger and explosive vehemence. I never failed to receive an injury when medicating him.

His mouth was in horrible shape, and our vet hoped his behavior was due to extreme oral discomfort. I did not hold out much hope.

But our vet was right. Once his

oral problems were treated, Hobbes turned out be a sweet, if fragile, boy. After some staff prodding, I agreed to move him into my office, where he could escape his rougher FIV Suite roommates and enjoy more human attention.

Hobbes was a devoted officemate. He spent an inordinate amount of time showing me attention. He would touch me, stroke

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[BFFs Jonathan and Hobbes](#)

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my arm or face, and try desperately to get into my lap. He continually planted himself smack in the middle of my chest, where I had no choice



[Hobbes with a royal admirer](#)

but to abandon hope of working and give him attention.

It wasn't just me he loved, however. Hobbes would melt in the arms of anyone who gave him attention. He was a gentle, non-threatening soul and had many visitors. One of my favorite memories is coming back to my office to find Hobbes in the arms of a little girl dressed as a fairy princess. He delighted in the attention, and she was just as happy to provide him with cuddles.

That was Hobbes. He made everyone happy, whether he was lounging with a mythical princess or dressing up as a cowboy. He was such a huge part of my life, and I can't imagine it without his presence.

I have a huge photo of him on

the wall of my home office, so I don't have to.



[Cowboy Hobbes](#)

## Happy Endings: Reginald, Sheldon and Tortini

Three flashes of orangey fur could be found in our Special Needs suite this spring. Long-haired marmalade Sheldon had come through our TNR Program. Outrageously handsome and sweet to fellow felines, Sheldon made some progress with us...but "timid" remained his default setting.



[Reggie and Sheldon dreaming of a forever home together](#)

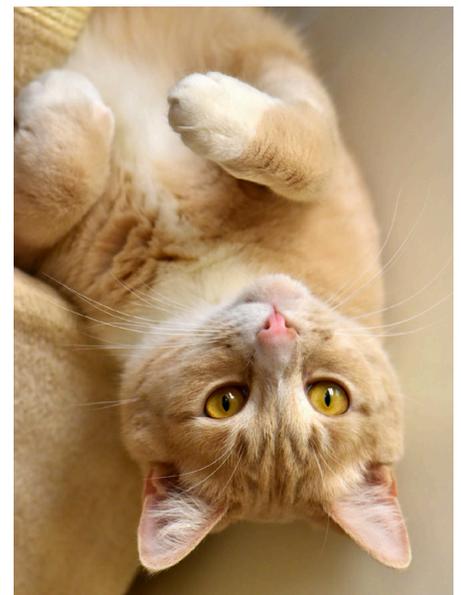
Sheldon's best buddy was a brown-sugar-buff boy named Reginald. Anxious Reggie arrived with a mysterious limp and stubborn scaredness that sent him shooting under furniture to avoid us. Like Sheldon, Reggie made progress in learning to trust. Sheldon was Reginald's "mentor," and the two often dozed in a two-toned orange yin-yang.

The third musketeer was Tortini, a kitten with wild streaks of flaming orange. The tortoiseshell teenager had reasons for her reticence, having come to us from horrifying circumstances. Tortini had been savaged by a wild animal, its jaws shattering her front leg in two places. World-class specialty care (thanks to the Linda Fund) saved Tortini's leg and life, but she wasn't certain about our species. When it came to cats, though, Sheldon and Reggie were her BFFs.

When a huge-hearted adopter

visited the Special Needs Suite, she faced a dilemma. She was smitten with Sheldon...but how could she separate him from the brown-sugar-buff boy at his side? And – oh! – that little tortoiseshell cuddling the boys was clearly part of the package. So

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[Reginald](#)

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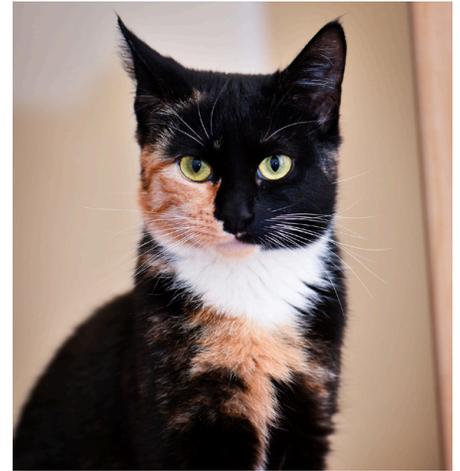
the decision was easy: the trio had to stay together.

And so they would...in a forever home.

Today, Tortini, Reginald and Sheldon are settling into their adoptive home. Their family adores them just as they are, and looks forward to earning their full trust, however long it takes. If shyness is a "Special Need," this trio is no less cherished for it.



Sheldon



Tortini

## Where Are They Now? Baloo

It takes a lot to scare our staff at Tabby's Place. Our team has wrangled ferals, medicated madcats and soothed many the savage beast through patient love. But Baloo was the rare cat who rattled us.

The gigantic grey guy arrived with an atrocious injury...and over-the-top "anger issues" to match. Over the course of a year, Baloo had eluded capture as a piece of twine



Beloved Baloo in his forever home

dug its way deeper and deeper into the flesh around his neck and front leg.

Despite the injury, Baloo was a strong, strapping cat, and he wasn't afraid to fight us with all his energy. That made saving his life a labor of love and courage. Baloo was in desperate need of intensive, hands-on daily care and bandage changes. Our vet team risked their own atrocious injuries to care for him faithfully. Baloo didn't exactly exude gratitude – but he did begin to heal, which was what we wanted most of all.

Baloo's unusual injury and intensive needs attracted the attention of Catster, which featured an article on Tabby's Place's extraordinary devotion to a feral cat. Right around that time, Baloo decided to rewrite his story. With scarcely any warning, after many months, Baloo suddenly decided to become one of the friendliest cats in the history of Tabby's Place.

One day, he attempted to end our lives.



Baloo recovering at Tabby's Place

The next, he begged for ceaseless belly rubs.

It was mind-boggling – and marvelous. And, once he found the joys of friendliness, Baloo never looked back.

So it was no surprise when the "new Baloo" quickly found a family of his own. Baloo's celebrity status continues in his forever home, where his adoring humans gush over their gentle, cuddly boy every day.

Baloo was originally described as one of Catster's "Monday Miracles." Given his incredible journey, we think he's got this miracle thing unlocked seven days a week – and we're grateful we got to witness the journey.

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