

## New Beginnings: Sylvester

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

“Large and in charge” fittingly describes sweet Sylvester. When his owners surrendered him, this gentle-as-a-dove diabetic found refuge with a caring veterinarian. When circumstances changed at the veterinarian’s office, Sylvester once again found himself in need of a safe haven. We are thrilled to have “Sly” at Tabby’s Place, as the only thing bigger than his body is his loving heart. Equally fond of catnip, human affection and fellow felines, Sylvester is a love, and never throws his weight around. Prior to moving into a “private suite” with best buds Pirate and Midnight, Sylvester was quite anxious about hyperkinetic Hootz...despite the fact that she is one third his size. We know our gentle giant would be the colossal king of the right family’s hearts. In the meantime, we love every minute of having him with us.



Sylvester

## Cats & Coats: A Retrospective

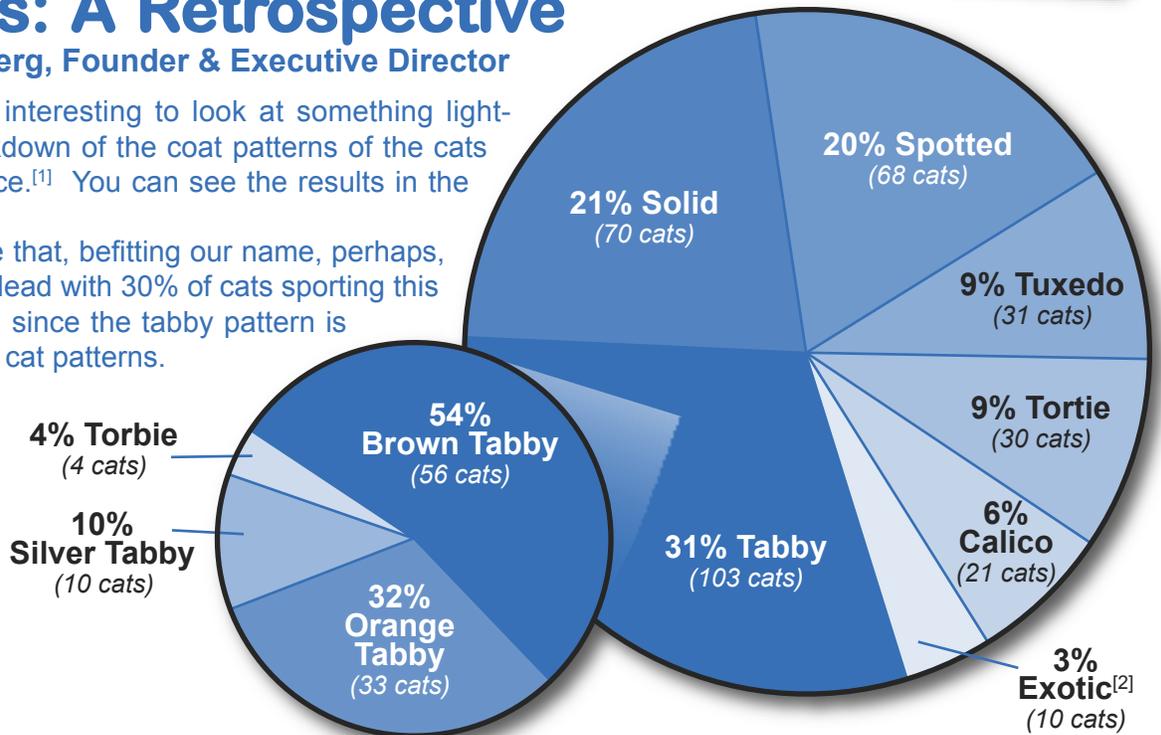
by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

We thought it would be interesting to look at something light-hearted this issue: the breakdown of the coat patterns of the cats we have had at Tabby’s Place.<sup>[1]</sup> You can see the results in the chart below.

I find it interesting to note that, befitting our name, perhaps, the tabby patterns are in the lead with 30% of cats sporting this outfit. This is not surprising, since the tabby pattern is believed to be ancestor of all cat patterns.

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[1] This study covers only the 344 of our cats for which we have complete records on coat pattern.  
 [2] Exotics include purebreds (e.g., Siamese, Birman) as well as exotic mixes (e.g., Siamese-tabby).



Peachy  
Exotic (Flame-point Siamese)



Angelina  
Silver Tabby



Cory  
Tuxedo



Max  
Brown Tabby



Pepper  
Tortie

# Cats of Many Colors

by Angela Townsend

From silky-sable Queen to blazing-red Thomas, brown tabby Mittens to colorpoint Molly, Tabby's Place cats come in just about every hue. Here are some stats on the many colors of cats:

- Colors (tabby, tuxedo, etc.) are descriptions, not breeds. So, for instance, Corey and Spike are tuxedo (color) domestic shorthair (breed) cats.
- There are five main categories of cat colors:
  - Tabbies, with striped, swirled or spotted coats, are the most common in the wild, and believed to be the markings on the earliest cats.
  - Solid-colored cats are usually the result of a recessive gene suppressing the tabby pattern. Sometimes this pattern isn't completely suppressed, and you can see "shadow" tabby markings in, say, a solid black cat. White is the only color that's always solid with no underlying tabby. Interestingly, the tabby-suppressing gene is not effective in red cats, so marmalade kitties are always tabbies.
  - Tricolors flaunt black, white and orange as calicos, tortoiseshells (who may have very, very little white) or tor-

bies (with tortoiseshell-over-tabby markings). Over 99.99% of these beauties are female.

- Bicolors display white plus another color, and include "tuxedos", "vans" (with color only on the head and tail) and "harlequins" (mostly white cats with just a few patches of color).
  - Colorpoint or pointed cats have darker coloring on the face, paws and tail. These points come in a range of hues, from pale red (flame) to dark brown (seal). These are always exotics (or exotic/domestic mixes).
  - The spread of cats' color varieties is linked to human movement. It's believed that colorpoint cats and grey cats first arose in Asia, and then spread into Russia. Red cats are also believed to have arisen in Asia, then spread east with the Vikings.
  - Among feral cats, black-and-white felines are more common in urban areas, and tabbies more common in rural locales.
  - It's unclear whether cats' colors are related to their personalities, but a reasonable explanation for common typecasting (i.e. torties with "cattitude") is that we get what we assume; by treating a cat according to our stereotypes, we encourage just the sort of behavior we expect from her.
- Whatever they're "wearing," we're of the definite opinion that cats of every color deserve our love, admiration, and ample oohs and aahs.



Dean  
Spotted



Natalie  
Orange Tabby



Precious  
Calico



Raja  
Tortie



Venice  
Solid Black

## Letters of the Quarter

Dear Tashi,

We were so happy to meet you a few weeks ago. You (are) truly a very special boy, just the sweetest, most personable and inspiring little guy. We should all have such an unlimited ability to deal with life's setbacks so fearlessly as you ... You are here for a reason. We read on the website it was your birthday, so enjoy your special day. We will come to visit again soon.

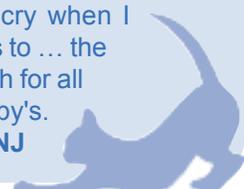
Your new friends,  
Eileen & Tim, Annandale, NJ



Grady, forever cherished and missed by all who knew him, whether in person or through the Tabby's Place blog.

I can't tell you how sorry I was to read of Grady's passing this morning. I just happened to see it on Facebook. I do read your blog just about every day as well. Losing one of our furry friends is always hard. That is the hardest part of having pets - they don't live as long as we do, so we must spend part of our lives without their special love. I am always in awe of what ... the staff at Tabby's Place (does). I know that Grady was (as all of the other kitties [are]) well cared for and loved. No animal could have asked for more in their journey thru their earthly stay. Grady is well and whole again and someday you will see him again, I still have tears in my eyes from reading your blog. I remember when Corey ... passed on to the Bridge. He was also a very special kitty and the first one we sponsored at Tabby's. I still cry when I look at his pictures. Hugs to ... the staff who (cares) so much for all your furry friends at Tabby's.

Irene, Dover, NJ



# Chronic Kidney Disease

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Ben is a nine year old orange tabby who came to us a year ago, with chronic kidney disease (CKD). While we're not sure what causes CKD, as cats age most will develop some degree of this disease.

We cannot detect CKD until 2/3 of the kidneys' functions are gone, at which point the kidneys lose some ability to retain water. To compensate for this, the cat will drink more and urinate more, but will still feel well. If

kidney disease is detected at this "early" stage, we can do some things to slow its progress. Feeding the cat a low-sodium, low-protein prescription diet and offering easy access to water can be beneficial. Monitoring the urine is also important, since the cat is more prone to urinary tract infections.

When ¾ of the kidneys are destroyed, they lose the ability to filter waste products. As toxins build up in the blood stream, the cat begins to lose his appetite, may vomit, and have diarrhea, weight loss or (rarely) seizures.

Ben's kidney disease has not yet progressed so far as to make him feel sick. When it does reach this stage, we will help Ben to feel better via fluid therapy, the mainstay of treatment for CKD. Administering fluids will reverse dehydration and help Ben's kidneys to filter toxins. In addition, other medications can help treat complications of kidney disease.

Although CKD can be fatal, sometimes it progresses so slowly that it never affects the cat's quality of life. Some cats with CKD live for years before their blood values begin to be elevated. Ben is lucky: after a year at Tabby's Place, no significant changes have occurred in his disease. He still eats and drinks well, and has a good quality of life without medical intervention.

Although there is no cure, there are many treatments to enable cats with kidney disease to live longer, healthier lives. Your veterinarian will help you to decide the best course of treatment for your cat.



Ben continues to flourish over a year after his diagnosis with chronic kidney disease.

# Vox Optio Veterinarius

## Making the change to an indoor life

by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician

Although it takes patience, an indoor-outdoor cat can usually be turned into a content indoor-only pet. The key is to make the conversion gradually and provide lots of attention and stimulation. If you and your indoor-outdoor cat are moving to an area that is not appropriate for outdoor time, or if you're adopting a previously indoor-outdoor cat, I recommend these steps to ease the transition to indoor-only life:

1. Confine the cat to one room (with a window) for the initial introduction. This prevents him from becoming overwhelmed. The time for confinement varies from cat to cat as some will adjust quicker than others.

2. Provide multiple surfaces to scratch, and praise your cat for using them.

3. Provide 1-2 litter boxes. If your cat is inconsistent with using the litter box, add a product

like Cat Attract to the litter, or try potting soil and maybe a leaf or two on the top layer for scent.

4. Provide plenty of interactive and independent toys. This helps with exercise and stimulation.

5. Keep the window open (with a secure screen in place) and provide a window seat so your cat can see and smell the outdoors.

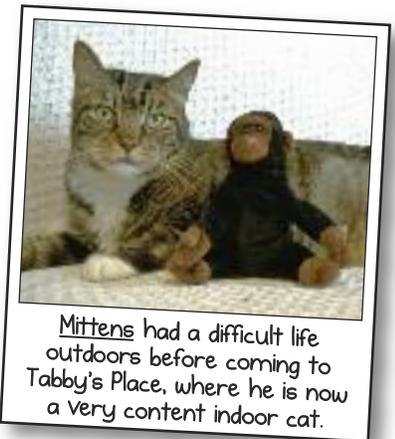
6. Provide cat grass or catnip plants.

7. Outdoor enclosures allow indoor cats to enjoy the outdoors without most of the associated dangers.

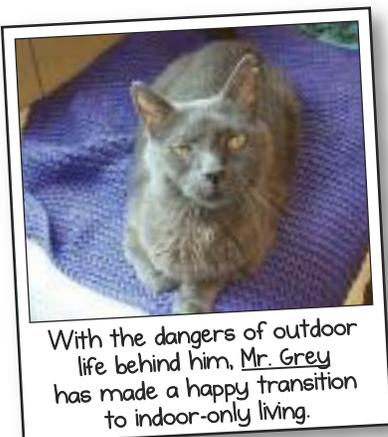
8. If your cat is very nervous, try a Feliway plug-in diffuser in the room.

9. Have plenty of food and water available, and shower your cat daily with love and affection.

10. Don't be alarmed if, six months into the transition, your cat isn't 100% comfortable with indoor living. As long as you see progress, however small, continue with the program.



Mittens had a difficult life outdoors before coming to Tabby's Place, where he is now a very content indoor cat.



With the dangers of outdoor life behind him, Mr. Grey has made a happy transition to indoor-only living.



# The Dessert Kids

## Hoarding Survivors

by Angela Townsend



Twinkie, Cupcake and Trifle huddled together under a couch in their early, terrified days at Tabby's Place.

Today, Twinkie, Trifle, Strudel and Cupcake are safe, well-fed, healthy and clean. But a few short months ago, the "Dessert Kids" were among the 250,000 annual victims of a secret, underreported disease: animal hoarding.

Cats are the most common victims of hoarding and are, therefore, most likely to experience the deprivation, fear, hunger, illness and psychological pain of this disease. The Dessert Kids arrived at Tabby's Place bearing the marks of this suffering, as they were among the most fearful, anxious cats we'd ever met. Their circumstances were typical of hoarding:

- Their owners possessed too many cats (93, in this case).
- The owners were not cognizant of their inability to provide even a minimal standard of care. Rescue workers had to wear HAZMAT suits to retrieve the animals, due to the 4 foot level of waste. Poor Strudel bore the evidence of this: his beautiful white paws were horribly soiled.

Although only 1500 cases are reported annually in the United States, it's estimated that a vast number of hoarding cases exist under the radar, and the percentage of hoarding cases grew by 150% between 2003 and 2004. If you think a family member or friend may suffer from animal hoarding, The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium offers helpful advice on sensitively getting help for the person and animals.

Fortunately, we can teach feline survivors of hoarding that humans can be worthy of their trust. Very slowly, led by brave Twinkie and her best friend Trifle, the Dessert Kids are overcoming their horrifying past. We know that there is a long road still ahead in these sweethearts' journeys of feeling truly secure. At Tabby's Place, they'll have all the time and tenderness they need.



Enchanting Twinkie now loves to play and accept treats from human friends.

# Encore Kitties

## The Belle of the Lobby is Back

by Angela Townsend

When one of our sweethearts is adopted, we always hope it's a forever home. However, we make a promise to each of our kitties: "once a Tabby's Place cat, always a Tabby's Place cat." If an adoptive family ever chooses to give up their Tabby's Place alum for any reason, the kitty can (and must) come back to the sanctuary. Fortunately, only about 10% of our adopted kitties are returned, and the majority of these go on to find true forever homes.

Bellis, the sweet-spirited, eyeless creamsicle kitty who stole your hearts a few newsletters ago, is our latest "encore cat." Adopted in spring 2008, Bellis came back to Tabby's Place in August 2009 when her family reported that she hadn't been using her litter box. Fortunately, snuggly Bellis has no qualms about her second round of Lobby life, and has already bonded with Tashi. Although Bellis is as happy as the day is long at Tabby's Place, we know her deepest joy will come when her forever family finds her. If you think that may be you, apply to adopt Bellis today.



Sweet Bellis, back at Tabby's Place and looking for her forever home.

## Charge For Cats



Did you know that you can carry Tashi, Julius or Lillian in your wallet – and donate to help our cats with every gallon of gas, veggie burger or CD you purchase? With the Tabby's Place Capital One Visa card, you earn \$25 for Tabby's Place after your first purchase, and 1% of every purchase you make is donated to the cats. Plus, your personalized kitty card increases awareness of Tabby's Place with every swipe. This will be the one credit card that makes you smile every time you use it. Click here or call 908-237-5300 ext. 235 for more information.



## Big (Hearted) Business

by Angela Townsend



China loves it when generous businesses donate catnip to her personal stash.

This summer, two kind groups of corporate employees brought their big hearts and carloads of cat accoutrements to Ringoes for 100 lucky cats. First, the Amper CARES team at Amper, Politziner & Mattia, LLP, represented by Eileen and longtime Tashi sponsor Lora, sent our cats

everything from Cosmic Catnip to dish soap to every feline cuisine imaginable. Following Amper CARES' generous crew, Ilene and Jen of Johnson & Johnson came bearing a feast for the eyes (and kitty tummies). The cat food! The kitty litter! The scratching posts! It was altogether wonderful, and we're simply dazzled. Big thanks to both Amper CARES and J&J.

If your company would like to deliver love to our felines, please contact Angela by e-mail or at 908-237-5300 ext. 235, or check out our wish list.



Larry loves all the toys donated by his friends at J&J and Amper CARES.

## The Gift of Sponsorship

What would your dear one rather find in his holiday stocking this year: another pair of socks, or the smiling face of a cat he's helping? Please bring love and smiles to your loved ones and needy cats alike by giving the Gift of Sponsorship this season. When you give a gift sponsorship, your friend or relative receives monthly updates and photos of her special kitty, and you have the joy of helping to care for a cat in need of a little extra TLC. The only tricky part is choosing which Special Needs cat your loved one gets to cherish! Meet Tony, Franny, Yasmine and all of their friends here.



Tony would love to be your dear one's favorite holiday gift.

## Forever Loved: Sinbad

by Jonathan Rosenberg

Sinbad was the perfect officemate: quiet, neat, unassuming and friendly. I made him my officemate because he was so timid and non-confrontational that he wouldn't eat when placed in a suite with other cats. He was very happy in my office ... even after Pepper moved in (during their first meeting, Sinbad walked up to her and Pepper gave him four quick left jabs to the face).

Sinbad was in kidney failure and had heart disease, but both conditions seemed to be well controlled, so I looked forward to enjoying his company for a long time.

In mid-June of this year, Sinbad had his biannual cardiac ultrasound. Much to our shock, the ultrasound showed that he had fluid in his chest. We were amazed that we hadn't noticed any change in him, since the fluid was a sign of heart failure. We removed the fluid to make him more comfortable and started him on a diuretic. Sinbad was scheduled for another x-ray on June 18 to see how well the medication was working.

Sadly, when I came in the next morning, I found him lying peacefully in my office: he had died during the night. He will be cremated along with his favorite blanket and some cat treats, which he loved dearly.

I will miss his tender ways and sweet chirrups.



Sinbad in his usual greeting pose at Jonathan's door, undoubtedly hoping for treats.

## 2010 Tabby's Place Calendars are Here!

The Tabby's Place cats are ready to kick off 2010 in style with their very own calendar. Celebrate a year of cuteness with Max, Tashi, Cali and the whole crew by ordering the 2010 Tabby's Place calendar. The calendar is \$20.00 plus shipping. To order yours, contact Angela at at@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 235.



Tashi, the cover kitty of our 2010 calendar.

## Where Are They Now? Halo & Twig

by Johanne Burchfield, Adopter

Several years ago, I came across a link to the Tabby's Place website, and being a cat lover, I had to check it out. There they were, and bang, I fell in love with Halo & Twig: two Special Needs kittens with cerebellar hypoplasia (CH), who had to be adopted together. I had to think this through, already having 12 cats (some also with Special Needs) and really not looking to add to my gang. But it was too late; they had to be mine. So I did some research on their condition and realized I could deal with it.

I became the very proud mama of "the whites." The first few days were somewhat frustrating for both me and the kittens, as we had to adjust to each other. Twig, who cannot walk at all, is a playful, loving, sweet kitty. But when things don't go his way, he gets very frustrated, thus getting the nickname Mr. Grouchy Pants. We had a cart made especially for him, but he decided it was more fun to be hauled around by mommy. We had to somewhat rearrange our lives around his needs, but he makes it all worthwhile. I eventually discovered ways to make our lives (especially Twig's) easier.

Halo, renamed Bonnie, is a delightful, chatty, bossy little girl and the apple of my eye. Since she is only mildly affected by CH, she's getting around pretty well. She and Twig are still very close, often playing and sleeping together.

It's been four great years with my babies and, even if it is at times a lot of work, I have never regretted my decision to adopt them.



Beautiful Halo (now Bonnie) loves her forever home.



Twig and Halo (Bonnie) are as devoted to each other as ever.



## Happy Endings: Griselle

by Jerry Shira, Adopter

Through an accident or cruelty, Griselle sustained a pulled tail, damaging the spine and causing her to lose control over her bladder. But, at Tabby's Place, this little girl was given a second chance. Griselle became one of the sanctuary's beloved Special Needs cats, available for sponsorship...or adoption.

In April, upon the loss of my beloved cat, Jenna Maree, I immediately started looking under sites for mistreated cats to adopt. This was my way of grieving. In my search, Tabby's Place revealed a face that captured my heart. Upon realizing Griselle was incontinent and 1,200 miles away, I decided this was not something I wanted to take on; however, Griselle's face continued to haunt me.

Now, almost two months later, Griselle has come to live with me in Florida. Griselle is my forever home. Thank you, Tabby's Place.



Glamorous Griselle, happy in her forever home.

## Tabby's Place Newsletter

Number 7.4 | Fourth Quarter, 2009

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**Executive Director** Jonathan Rosenberg

**Editor** Angela Townsend

**Design & Layout** Adam Sullens

Published quarterly by

**Tabby's Place: A Cat Sanctuary**

1100 US Highway 202 • Ringoes, NJ 08551

(908) 237-5300 • [info@tabbysplace.org](mailto:info@tabbysplace.org)

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