

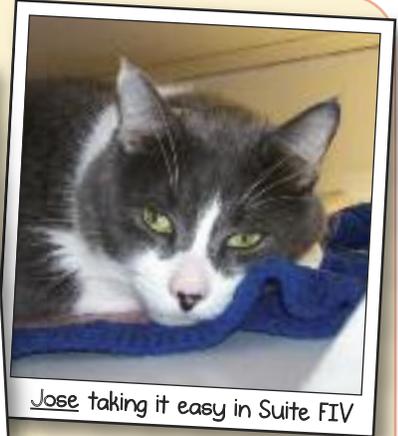
New Beginnings: Rosie & Jose

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

Majestic Rosie may look like a lion, but the only thing roaring in Rosie's world is her crowd of fans. Along with best buddy Jose, Rosie came to Tabby's Place this winter after 3 years on our FIV+ waiting list. We knew from the moment we saw these gentle BFFs that there was something remarkable about them. Jose is a lovable big lug who, if he were human, might have the nickname "Tiny." Glamorous Rosie is equal parts snuggly and self-confident, happy to indulge everyone's urge to pet her silky red fur and hug her close. Although their FIV+ status means these two aren't right for every family, we have a feeling it won't be long before Jose and Rosie are roaring out of Tabby's Place and into a forever home.



Glamour Girl Rosie



Jose taking it easy in Suite FIV

2009 Tabby's Place Expenditures

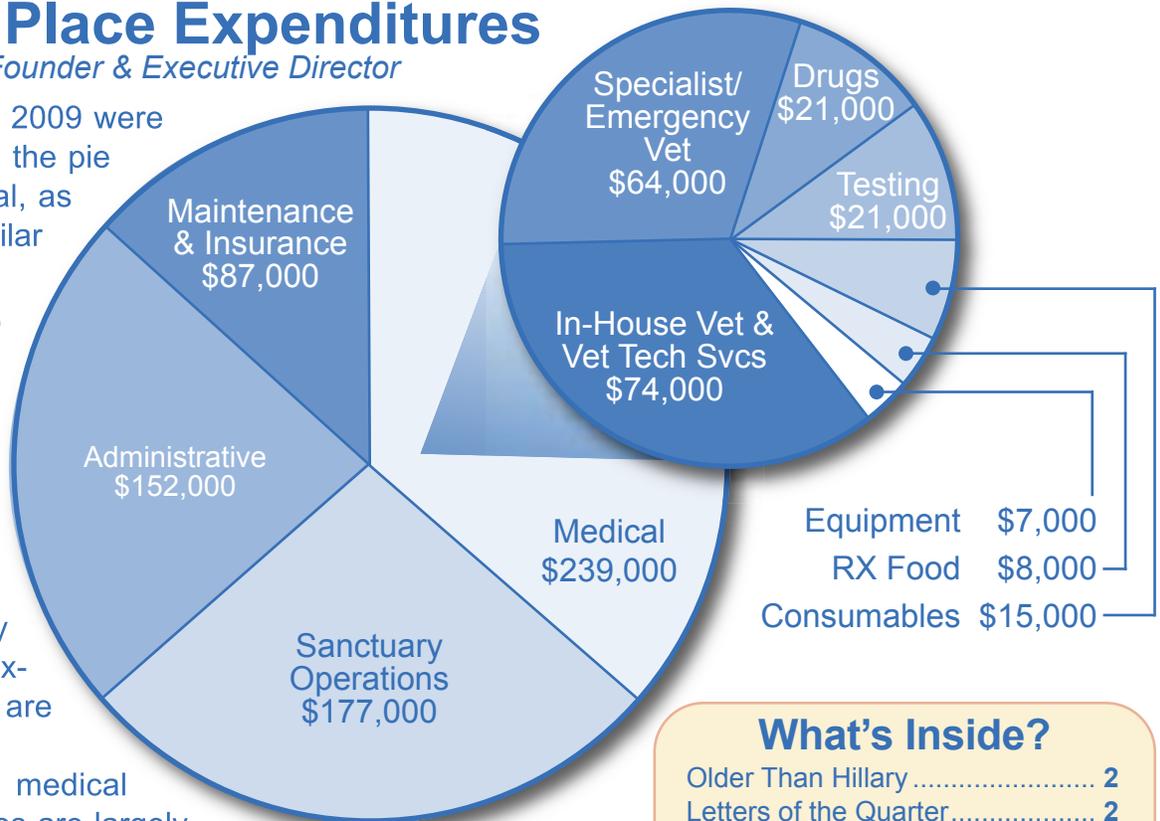
by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Our total expenses for 2009 were \$655,000, broken down in the pie chart to the right. The total, as well as the details, are similar to those for 2008.

At Tabby's Place, everything (including cost) is driven by the needs of the cats, with medical care being the largest category at 36%. This is not surprising since we pride ourselves in providing the best in veterinary care and at any time approximately 30% of our cats are Special Needs.

As we all know, good medical care is costly and expenses are largely unpredictable. We did, however, lower Operations costs compared to 2008 by almost 25%. We are learning to become more efficient in our use of employee versus volunteer time.

As a result of decreased expenses in other areas, our 2009 Administrative load increased in percentage from 2008, from 17% to 23%. While still respectable, we will be working hard to control our administrative overhead.



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Older Than Hillary: The History of Cat Rescue

by Angela Townsend, Development Director

We are grateful that we're not alone in the global labor of love to save cats from hopeless situations. We tip our hats and send headbonks to our predecessors in cat rescue:

1641: The Massachusetts Bay Colony passes North America's first legal code to protect domestic animals from abuse.

1822: British Parliament passes an act to protect animals from cruelty and unjust treatment.

1837: The world's first SPCA in London becomes the RSPCA under the royal patronage of Queen Victoria.

1845: The French get in on the act, with the Societe Protectrice des Animaux.

1866: The American SPCA is born.

1875: "Mrs. Goodman's Hospital for Cats" works to bring relief to the 60,000 stray cats living on garbage in New York City.

1895: A group of Boston butchers accept subscriptions from philanthropic citizens, raising enough to feed starving cats on the Back Bay.

1896: Her Majesty the Queen gives her Patronage to The Camden Town Institution, which receives an average of 300 cats each week. At this time, there are an estimated 750,000 homeless cats in London.

1800s-1900s: The London Institution for Lost and Starving Cats collects strays in its horse drawn van, and provides free medical care to cats with poor families.

1901: Mrs. Leland Norton founds the Cat Refuge in Chicago.

1906: "Our Dumb Friends' League" establishes an animal hospital providing veterinary care to pets belonging to the poor.

1930s-1960s: The British Cats Protection League runs the "Tailwavers Club" to help bombed-out cats after WWII.



Hillary may be at this month, but cat rescue has been going on since long before her birth.



Monica and *Steve* are proud to take their place in cat rescue history.

1976: Former civil rights activist Henry Spira successfully campaigns against the American Museum of Natural History's experimentation on cats.

1977: Two British Cat Action Trusts form to neuter, manage and provide care for feral cats.

1990: Alley Cat Allies is formed to care and advocate for stray and feral felines.

1993: Work begins in what will become the Torre Argentina Roman Cat Sanctuary, caring for homeless cats found living among Rome's ancient ruins.

1999: Tabby's Place: a Cat Sanctuary is founded by Jonathan Rosenberg.

2003: Tabby's Place begins its mission of rescuing cats from hopeless situations, providing them with exceptional care in a cage-free haven, and finding them loving homes.



Fuzzy shares his excitement about rescue history.

Letters of the Quarter

By now I feel I know you and want to thank you for sharing news of Tabby's Place with me. Your cats are all distinctive – you show that so well in your newsletter. ... You must have a great staff. Those of us who cannot participate personally should be responsible for funding your efforts. ... Best regards to the folks at Tabby's Place. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

- *Dotte, Plainfield, NJ*

Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg and friends...I wanted to thank you. We live in a remote area in Australia. Over the years...we have had very many cats seeking help. Here, they are looked upon as lesser beings, which we all know they are not. In fact, so are "our" kangaroos - special when, like anyone, you take time to get to know them.

We just saw the T.V. clip about you....and how it gladdened us to see what you are doing and that you value your feline friends as we do. ... It makes the difficult times much easier to take, knowing that someone recognizes the value that these very intelligent, feeling fellow beings have.

- *Carol, Australia*

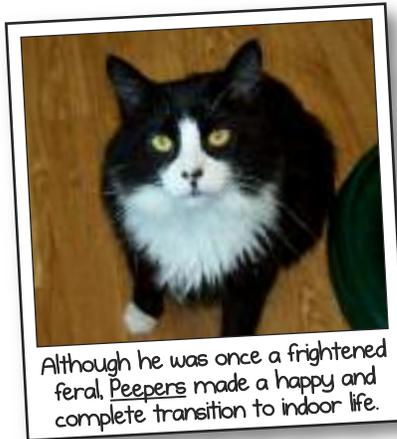


Vox Optio Veterinarius: Transitioning a Feral Cat to an Indoor Life

by Denise Jeffries, Senior Veterinary Technician

Last quarter, we looked at bringing an indoor-outdoor kitty inside. This time, I'll share tips for making a feral cat a content indoor pet. The key thing to remember is to have patience. Feral cats see most living things, including other cats, as a threat, and their priority is self protection.

It is best to be minimally assertive as you begin the transition. Cats do things in their own time, and you may set them back if you are too strident.



Although he was once a frightened feral, Peepers made a happy and complete transition to indoor life.

- Start your feral friend in a smaller room with food, water, litter box, toys and bedding. Make sure he has plenty of time to feel safe here before you allow him into the rest of the house.
- Using Feliway diffusers can help your cat to feel more comfortable.
- Make your presence quiet and gentle as you

clean litter boxes and provide food.

- Offer tasty canned food or treats twice daily while talking in a calm voice.
- Turn on a radio or TV in the room to help him adjust to human sounds.
- Once the cat becomes more confident, use toys to tempt some interaction.
- As the cat progresses, begin to expand the areas in the house he can explore.

Some cats will make this transition with ease, while others progress slowly. This process can take many months, and some cats will never become fully domesticated. You may not have a lap cat at the end of this process, but, a new roommate. If the cat is still very unhappy after 6- 12 months, you may consider re-releasing him to a safe, monitored area. Best wishes in your efforts to provide a safe, loving world for your feral friend.

Editor's Note: While Tabby's Place cannot take cats from the general public, we are always happy to share our advice if you are helping a feral. You can also [check out our page of feral resources](#).

Upper Respiratory Tract Infections in Cats

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian



Upper respiratory tract infections (URIs) are the most common class of feline infectious diseases. Like a human cold, symptoms include sneezing, runny eyes and nose, cough, oral ulcers, nasal congestion, fever and a hoarse voice. These infections are most common in newly acquired cats or cats that go outdoors.



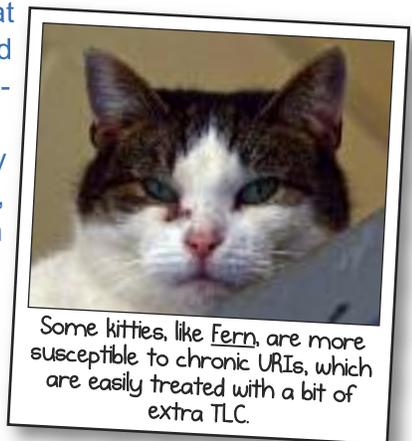
Kittens, like Flora, are especially vulnerable to URIs.

Most feline colds last about 7 to 10 days. Treatment can include oral antibiotics to mitigate secondary bacterial infections (but not the URIs, which are usually viral). For nasal congestion, nose drops can help dispel the mucus.

Most cats handle URIs well, maintaining their appetite and activity throughout. Some cats, particularly kittens, can develop serious infections like pneumonia. In these cases, a cat may need antibiotics and intravenous or subcutaneous fluids. Keeping an infected cat eating is critical, but can be difficult if his sense of smell is affected by the nasal congestion. Using very smelly food like tuna can help, and syringe feeding small kittens may be useful.

URIs are transmissible among cats, but not to humans or other pets, and they are generally spread by wet sneezes. The disease can be transmitted on your hands if you contact the virus and then touch another cat. It is best to separate the sick cat from your healthy cats and wash your hands after contacting him.

Feline URIs are very common. As in humans, they are typically only an inconvenience. But you should seek veterinary treatment to minimize symptoms as well as to prevent secondary infections.



Some kitties, like Fern, are more susceptible to chronic URIs, which are easily treated with a bit of extra TLC.

Major Milestone!

In 2009, Tabby's Place was financially self-sustaining for the first time. Thank you for making this possible!



Feline Fine: Cats & Your Health

by Angela Townsend

It doesn't take a scientist to tell you that stroking your favorite cat soothes stress. But while our gut instincts have always known that cats are good for us, it's exciting to see the medical community singing the praises of our favorite species. In case you needed more reasons to have cats in your life, check out these findings:

- A [longitudinal study](#) presented to the American Stroke Association in 2009 found that, over a 20-year period, current or former cat parents had a 40% lower risk of fatal heart attack, and a 30% lower risk of death due to any cardiovascular disease than folks who had never lived with a cat. A similar study found that having a pet may decrease fatal heart attacks by 3%, which translates to 30,000 lives saved annually in the United States alone.

- An [Australian study](#) in 1992 found that pet parents had lower blood pressure and levels of triglycerides than those without pets.

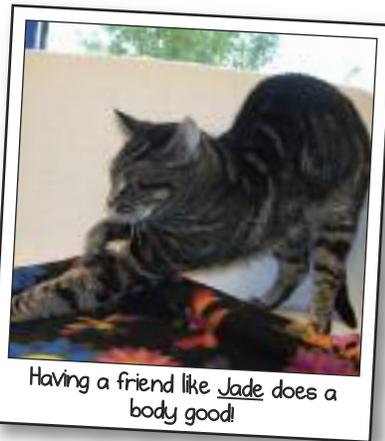


Loving a cat like Mahalia is a win-win situation for the health of everyone involved.

- A study [found](#) that children living with pets were 13-18% less likely to miss school due to illness than those without pets. Kids with furry friends were also found to have better immune function, and a reduced risk of developing animal allergies and

asthma. Medical research also [suggests](#) that babies born into families with pets also receive health benefits by "priming," via exposure, of the infant's developing immune system.

- A 1989 study [found](#) that autistic children with pets have more prosocial behaviors and less autistic behaviors.

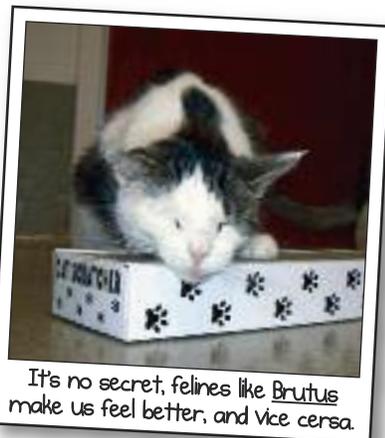


Having a friend like Jade does a body good!

- A 1998 study [found](#) that seniors with pets coped better with stressful events without entering the healthcare system. Similarly, a 1999 study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society [found](#) that seniors with pets are more active, and less likely to experience depression, than those without animal companions. In addition, a study conducted in NY, MO and TX [discovered](#) that nursing homes that permitted pets had lower medication costs than those that did not.

- Pet cats were found by the [Swiss Institute for Applied Ethology and Animal Psychology](#) to alleviate negative moods to a comparable extent as human partners.

If you're one of the many cat adorers who, due to landlord, allergies or any reason, can't keep a cat of your own, you can get the same health benefits by [volunteering](#) at Tabby's Place or your local shelter.



It's no secret, felines like Brutus make us feel better, and vice versa.

The Cats' Favorite Catalog

How many catalogs have you seen where every purchase gives something to the shopper, their loved one, and 100 cats? The Tabby's Place [Online Gift Catalog](#) is one-of-a-kind. Whether you choose to give a [Gift Sponsorship](#) of a Special Needs kitty, a [Virtual Gift Basket](#), or a [donation in honor or memory](#) of a person or pet, we know you'll find something perfect for your cat-loving Valentine. Every special kitty gift is 100% tax deductible, and these gifts make a perfect choice when you're shopping at the last minute; we'll send your loved one a colorful e-card announcing your gift within an hour. [Happy shopping.](#)



Whatever the holiday, Tony promises you'll find the perfect present in the Tabby's Place Online Gift Catalog.

Tout the Tabbies

The cats are looking for a few good reviewers. If you have internet access and you love the kitties, click on over to [GreatNonprofits.org](#), where you can [write a rave review](#) for Tabby's Place. Great Nonprofits is a new tool that helps folks find and support the worthiest causes. Let's let the whole world know why they'll love being part of the Tabby's Place family.



Beatrice hopes that she and Tabby's Place rate high with you, and on [GreatNonprofits.org](#)

Memories are Made for This

by Angela Townsend

At Tabby's Place, there's one thing we hate about loving cats: having to say goodbye. Yet we could never give up the sweetness of loving the Gradys and Mollys and Erins of the world, even if it meant we'd be spared the heartbreak.

If you've had to say goodbye to a cherished friend, we would love to help you keep your cat's memory alive. On the Tabby's Place Memorial Walkway, cat lovers choose to "pay forward" the love they've received from special felines by caring for our kitties. Each brick represents a life well lived and loved, as well as a generous donation that makes a good life possible for needy cats. If you would like to honor your loved one this way, please contact Angela by e-mail or phone (908-237-5300 ext 235), or click here.



The Tabby's Place Memorial Walkway leads to tranquil Cherny's Garden.



Forever Loved: Erin

by Jonathan Rosenberg

For three years, a visitor who sat down in our Lobby would find her lap quickly filled by a gray & white cat. Well, 'filled' is not the right word, since Erin was tiny enough to be a kitten. In fact, Erin was 14 when she came to us, but showed incredible energy from the start. She was constantly pacing the Lobby scouting for her two loves: laps and food.



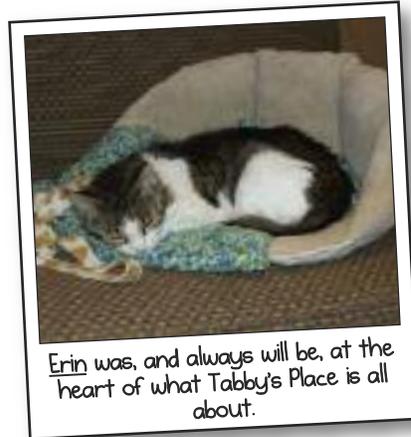
Erin in the Tabby's Place Lobby.

When she wasn't climbing on a human, Erin was eating. She never weighed more than seven pounds but could eat ten plates of wet food in a day. We never did figure out where she put all that food.

In 2009 Erin started to go blind and suffered from mammary cancer. Despite these afflictions, she never lost a beat, and continued to be an employee favorite.

Then a few months ago we noticed that Erin was not "right." Evaluation revealed that her kidneys were barely functioning. She rallied briefly, but eventually we knew it was time to let her go.

This was one of the hardest losses yet at Tabby's Place. Erin was such a presence in the Lobby and so much a part of Tabby's Place. I think of her every day. Rest in peace, Baby Girl.



Erin was, and always will be, at the heart of what Tabby's Place is all about.

Are You the Cats' Next Benefactor?

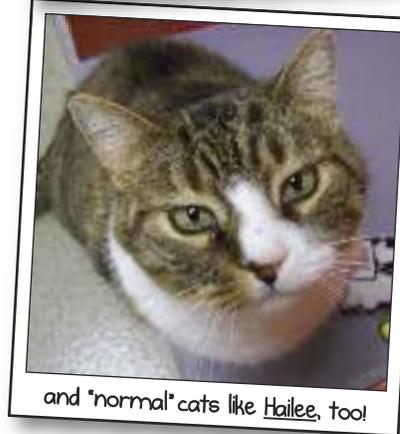


Benefactors are heroes to Special Needs sweeties like Lilly

You may know that our kitties have a special group of friends called Benefactors. But did you know that you might be "this" close to being a Benefactor yourself? Depending on your current giving, you may be only a few dollars away each month from being part of this core group of kitty heroes.

Tabby's Place Benefactors are the marathon runners who stick with our cats in the long term, making a multi-year commitment to donate \$100 or more each month. Knowing we can count on these steady supporters helps us to plan great things for the kitties.

With the help of the cats' Benefactors, we plan



and "normal" cats like Hailee, too!

to eventually cross the finish line of growing Tabby's Place to three buildings, housing 500 cats. We are already starting to think about a second building, which, among other things, will allow us to house feline leukemia-positive kitties, the most unwanted of all cats.

If you're already supporting our cats, please consider making your gifts work even harder by becoming a Benefactor. Please e-mail or call (908-237-5300 ext. 235) Angela, or click here to find out more how you can become the cats' next Benefactor. The kitties would love to honor you with a plaque on the Benefactor Wall in the Tabby's Place lobby. Of course, it's a kitty-shaped plaque – because we know you always put our cats first. (We love that about you.)



Happy Endings: Gabby

by Angela Townsend

There's something about diseases with names like "megacolon" that scares away most adopters. That's the only imaginable reason why sweet-as-pudding Gabby was at Tabby's Place for nearly three years.

When Gabby first came to us, we knew she had a history of...well, pooping problems. We soon diagnosed her with a severe case of megacolon. Her condition caused painful constipation, and nothing seemed to bring relief for our gentle, chatty girl. At last, our vet recommended major surgery. With many prayers and well wishes, Gabby went in for a subtotal colectomy.



Gabby in the Lobby.



Gabby always loved being loved - and now she's adored by a family of her own!



Gabby loved her life at Tabby's Place, but she's happier than ever in her forever home.

Happily, Gabby emerged from surgery a much healthier cat. The creamsicle-colored girl with the melodic meow was now a "normal," comfortable feline. Now all that waited was a home.

We like to believe that cats who wait an especially long time for their forever families do so because someone really special is out there for them. That's clearly the case with the Gabster.

Today, Gabby is loving life with a doting adoptive mom and eight furry "siblings." One of the dogs has especially good taste, as he's utterly smitten with Gabby. In fact, when mom says "go find your kitty," the dog will run to find Gabby immediately.

We couldn't be more thrilled that this forever family loves their gift of Gab.

Where Are They Now: Susie

by Jonathan Rosenberg

I have had a succession of eight feline office-mates during the past six years. While I have loved them all, Susie will always stand out.

Susie, who came to us from West Virginia, was a striking orange tabby with gorgeous markings. In fact, Susie had a LOT of orange fur to admire, since she was obese. But Susie had a personality to match her girth. She was confident, outgoing and had a swish to her walk that made it clear that she was "all that and a bag of chips." I found her irresistible, fell in love with her and made her my officemate.

During her year in my office, Susie was very talkative, and I would often hear her talking to her herself. She was especially vocal as she prepared for a nap. She would speak to herself in a low voice as she moved the bumps in her bed around so that they were just right.

Several people considered adopting Susie, but were put off by her tendency to nip (I might have neglected to mention this tiny defect). Then a lovely woman came in and thought that she would like to adopt Susie sometime in a few weeks. I was both happy and sad, but intent on enjoying the next few weeks with dear Susie.

But, I was out of town when the woman decided she was ready for Susie. I must admit that I cried when the staff alerted me by cell phone.

Susie is thriving in her forever home. She has lost more weight and is best friends with the woman's dog. I even got the chance to see Susie again a few months ago, when she came in for some glamour photos. She looked beautiful and was obviously very happy. It was great to see my girl again, but hard to say goodbye.



Susie is loving life in her forever home.



Beautiful Susie will always have Jonathan's heart.

I am glad she is doing so well. I will love her forever.

TABBY'S PLACE NEWSLETTER

Number 8.1 | First Quarter, 2010

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Design & Layout Adam Sullens

Published quarterly by

Tabby's Place: A Cat Sanctuary

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