

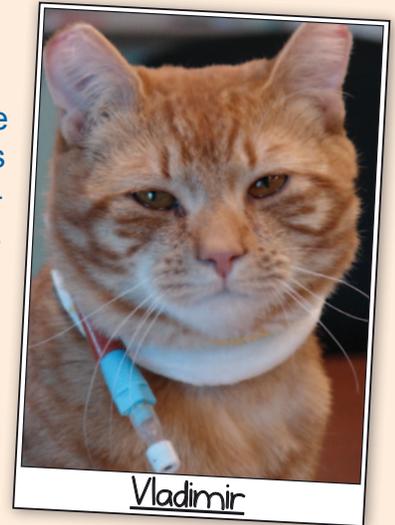
## New Beginnings: Vladimir

by Angela Townsend, Development Director



“This guy needs a strong name.” These were Jonathan’s words when Vladimir came to Tabby’s Place. There wasn’t much “strong” about the petite orange tabby at that point –except for his spirit. Vladimir had been found motionless and emaciated on the frozen streets of Brooklyn, his ear tips and rear feet blackened by frostbite. The vet cautioned us not to get our hopes up about the little guy’s survival...but Vlad immediately lived up to his mighty name.

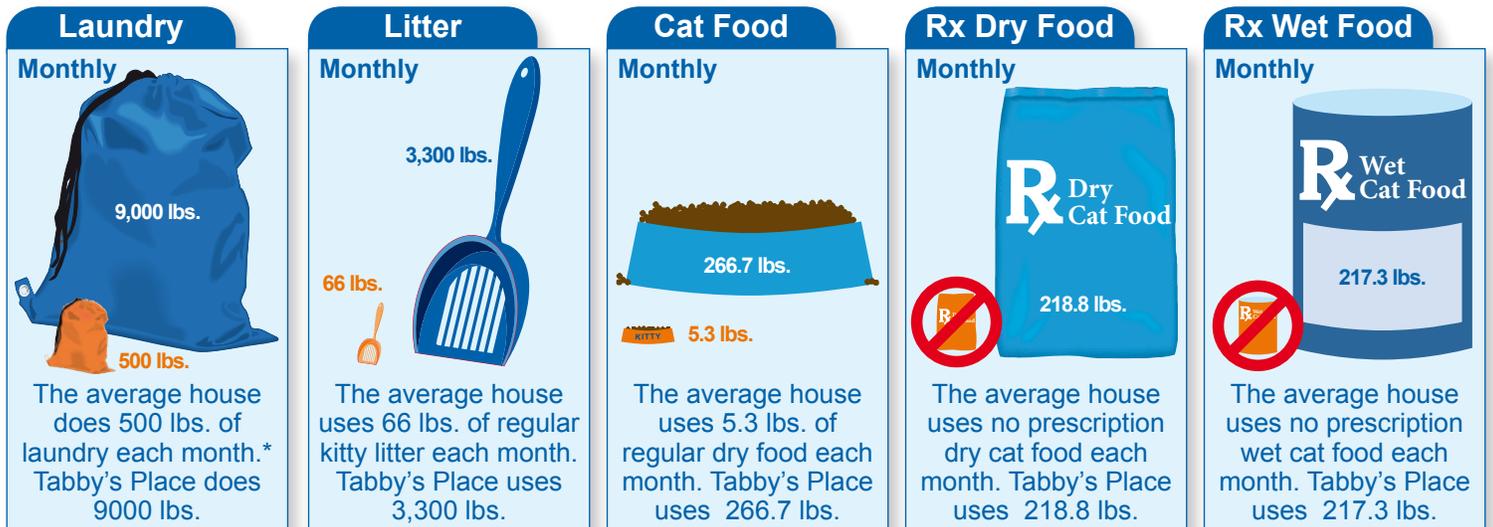
Today, Vladimir is finished with the feeding tube that helped to save his life. He’s sailed through surgery to remove all the afflicted toes on his rear paws. If anyone is tempted to pity Vlad, he’s happy to remind them that toes are overrated, and life is beautiful. In fact, we have never met a happier, more affectionate cat than the snuggler with the strong spirit. With his jubilant chirp and his fondness for nose-rubs, Vladimir is living a powerful life of love. Thank you for making it possible to save Vlad’s life – and to give him enough cuddles to forget all his troubles.



## Feline Fare by Angela Townsend

Tabby’s Place has just under 100 kitties in our care. While the average family has a few less (2.2, to be exact), providing kitty basics is a special part of the budget in every cat-loving household.

This issue, let’s take a look at cats’ usage of basics in an average family...and in the Tabby’s Place family. Thank you for nurturing our kitties and meeting all of their needs in love.



\*The average household does 400 loads per year, and the average load is 15 lbs. The Tabby’s Place washer and dryer handle 30-lb. loads, of which we do 10 per day.

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# Letters of the Quarter

Thank you so very much for the wonderful Valentine of my precious kitties and their heartfelt stories. I am so thankful for Tabby's Place, and I always feel like I am there loving the kitties. How special are those that have adopted the kitties, even though some of the cats have issues.

I am no longer able to care for a kitty of my own, so I am very grateful to be able to share, in my very small way, the lives that are so precious at Tabby's Place.

Thank you all for all you do for the kitties! And thank you again for the beautiful stories.

With much love, and a pat for the kitties,  
 -Marlene, TX, Special Needs Sponsor

Dear Ms. Angela:

We are Royalwood Lions, and we are in fourth grade. We are really excited to sponsor Tashi and we hope he is able to walk soon.

We have a 5 gallon bank to put money in for Tashi's medicine and all kinds of stuff he needs. Some of us earn money by helping people, doing chores, babysitting, cutting the grass, finding spare change, helping with the groceries, and picking up garbage.

Can you please tell Tashi that we care about him and love him? We are excited to sponsor Tashi to help his legs get better. Ms. Angela, however much money we put in there, Ms. Kern will put in there, too. WE LOVE TASHI SO MUCH! Love,

-Ms. Kern's Class, TX, Tashi Sponsors



Ms. Kern's 4th Grade Class

## Whisker Wisdom

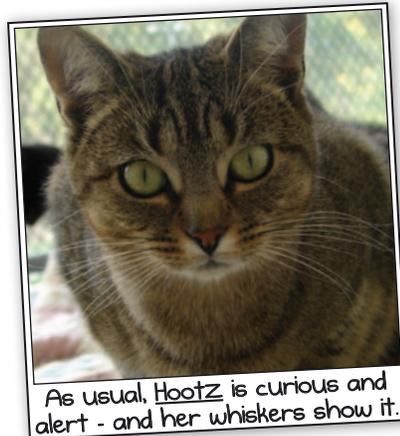
by Angela Townsend

They're adorable, expressive and can make cats look like Wilford Brimley. Whiskers are amazing creations that help cats navigate ... and help us navigate cats' moods:

- Little leg whiskers help your kitty gauge where to land from a pounce or jump.
- Roughly the same width as a cat's body, facial whiskers are a measuring tool that helps her judge the width of any opening.
- Whiskers protect your feline's eyes, with a startle reflex that shuts her peepers if anything touches them.
- Your cat may twitch her whiskers as an "internal calming signal" to cope with anxiety, much the way she starts to groom herself or look away when stressed.



Hooper has the drooping whiskers of a friendly, relaxed feline.



As usual, Hootz is curious and alert - and her whiskers show it.

Since whiskers are vital to a cat, you should never trim them.

Whiskers are also keys to communicating with us, in the context of overall body language:

### If Your Cat Is: Her whiskers are likely to be...

<p><b>Friendly and relaxed</b></p>	<p><u>Extended</u> sideways, in <u>neutral, relaxed</u>, drooping position. If you pet her, she may tilt them slightly forward, showing her happiness.</p>
<p><b>Curious, alert and playful</b></p>	<p>Bushy-looking, <u>fanned forward</u> towards <u>object of interest</u>.</p>
<p><b>Defensively hostile</b></p>	<p>Either <u>pulled back</u> or fanned <u>out and forward</u>, to <u>assess the distance</u> from danger.</p>
<p><b>Very frightened or agitated</b></p>	<p><u>Slicked back</u> against her cheeks, to protect these key sensors in case of attack. Also a sign of submission, making her face seem smaller and less threatening.</p>

## Cats Have Teeth, Too!

by Dr. Laura Collins, Veterinarian

Our pets don't brush their teeth, and many never see the "dentist." So, it's no surprise that 70% of cats have dental disease by age four. In fact, at Tabby's Place, the most common anesthetic procedure we perform is dental cleaning.

Feline dental disease falls into three major categories:

- Periodontal disease results

from bacteria at the gumline causing bone infection, which results in bone loss, loose teeth, and pain. Periodontal disease may be associated with kidney infections, heart disease and a shortened life span. Regular dental cleaning (both under anesthesia at the vet's office, and with a toothbrush at home) can reverse or stop the progress of periodontal disease. Dental surgery can guard against infection spreading to other parts of the body.

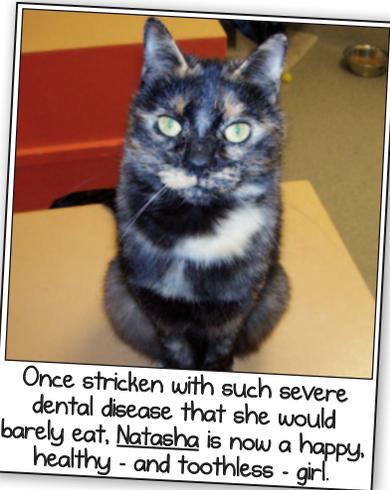
- Feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions (also called cervical neck lesions) are cavities at the gumline that can result in fracture, leaving a root embedded in the jaw bone. They are quite painful, but extracting the affected root resolves the pain.

- Lymphocytic-plasmacytic stomatitis (LPS) is the least common cause of dental disease, and can be so painful that cats refuse to eat. LPS stems from over-reaction of the immune system, resulting in severe tissue inflammation. Treatment involves steroids, and usually extraction of some or all of the teeth.

Regular dental cleanings under anesthesia will help keep your cat's teeth healthy. This also gives your veterinarian the opportunity to evaluate your cat's teeth with dental probing and/or X-rays, and to catch and treat conditions before they become severe. Dental health will contribute to your cat's longevity, but even more to his quality of life by keeping him pain free.



Peachy has thrived elegantly after treatment for feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions.



Once stricken with such severe dental disease that she would barely eat, Natasha is now a happy, healthy - and toothless - girl.

## Jewels In The Rough: Adopting A Shy Cat

by Sharon Rosenberg, Volunteer Coordinator

Adopting a feline friend can add joy to your family, although finding the "right cat" can be challenging. Most adopters gravitate towards confident, friendly kitties, overlooking the shy cats that keep away from humans. As a majority of cats at Tabby's Place come from shelters, we often don't know details of their histories. Yet many of those who enter our doors timid and afraid will learn to trust and give the unconditional love we all desire. It simply takes time, patience, and a loving human heart.

Please consider giving your love and a forever home to one of our overlooked kitties, as the following adopters have done:



Kurt and his big brother Johnny.



Once terrified of humans, Kurt now loves affection.

- "Shy Kurt loved other cats. This made him a perfect addition to our family. Initially, we placed Kurt in a quiet room, giving him time to acclimate to his new surroundings. We visited him frequently, which helped him to slowly gain trust. We allowed

Kurt to explore at his own pace. Soon he began wandering around the house, anxious to meet our other cat, Johnny (also a Tabby's Place alum). Now Kurt doesn't need 'his room,' as he has 'his spot' in every room. Kurt is a loving and confident member of our family." – *Lorraine R.*

- "Timid Precious needed time to warm up to humans. The single most important factor was that she had kitty friends. The transition to petting Precious happened fairly quickly, although



Precious is now a snuggler in her forever home.

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she wasn't a cuddler until the following year. Now she sits in the window waiting for my arrival, loves sleeping under the covers, and enjoys the company of my friends. Adopting Precious has been a fantastic experience. It has truly been an exercise in meeting and appreciating her for who she is, and never forcing her to be or do anything she was not ready for."

– Karin A.

• "Sophia, skittish when first adopted, has become quite the sweet and loving companion. In the beginning, I kept Sophia in a small space, visited her frequently, gave her treats, and spoke with a gentle voice. As she became more confident, Sophia gradually sat next to me, put a paw on my lap, and eventually became a real couch potato! Sophia enjoys my quiet home without too much activity. She has bonded with me strongly— and my life would never be the same without her."

– Sandy F.



Sophia loves her life with Sandy.

## Cats Who Love Cats

by Angela Townsend

As lovers canoodle this spring, we'd like to introduce you to some of the sweetest pairs and posses you're caring for at Tabby's Place:

- Dobro, Kimiko, Miyagi, Pikachu, Beta and Valencia:

If you're a cat, to join Suite A is to be immediately loved and accepted. They may be our shyest cats (and a main focus for our devoted volunteer socializers), but their love for one another is true. Peek into Suite A and you're bound to see a heap of happy cats, safe in each other's love.



Clockwise from left: Kimiko, Pikachu, Dobro, Miyagi & Beta.



Best buds Bialy and Tashi.

- Tashi & Bialy: Theirs may be the most devoted "bro-mance" in Tabby's Place history. Our wild child, paraplegic Tashi, is an eternal kitten even at age 3. In hydrocephalic Bialy, Tashi has found a forever friendship. Whether napping, scheming (always) or engaged in ultimate fighting, these brothers of the heart know a lot

about love.

- Oreo & Cookie: As all old couples know, it's never too late for love to bloom. At age 16, Cookie is our longest-

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### Interested in Volunteering at Tabby's Place?

Go to: [www.tabbysplace.org/volunteer.html](http://www.tabbysplace.org/volunteer.html)

**Calling All Social Networkers!**  
Join the cats on [Facebook](#) and the [Tabby's Place blog](#) today.

## Make Mama Merry

This Mother's Day, why not give the one who loves you best the gift that will outlast – and out-love – even the prettiest flowers?

When you donate the Mama & Kittens Virtual Gift Basket, your mom receives a beautiful personalized card announcing your kindness. And your gift blooms for years in the lives you save: faithful mother cats and their kittens at Tabby's Place.



As you honor your loved one, your generosity makes it possible for the neediest little ones to know the warmth, safety and love of Tabby's Place...and, someday, a home of their own.

If your heart is too big for the same old flowers this spring, click on over to the Tabby's Place Virtual Gift Catalog. Mama Tia and all of our cats promise you'll find a gift that loves as generously as you do.



Tia with her little ones, Glynnis, Freckles, Dab, Cinder and Leila.

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time resident, a 7-year veteran at Tabby's Place. She and timid Oreo have survived the Weight Management Suite for many moons now, developing a deep and enduring love. To make their love even sweeter, Oreo and Cookie's bond has coincided with their gradually letting us human types love them, too. If you see a yin-yang of black and white fur, smile and know that love is here.

Thank you for making love – and life – possible for these snugglers. Your generosity to these love-bugs is a gift of grace, cherishing needy cats exactly as they are.



Oreo and...



Cookie, who were too shy to pose together.

## Forever Loved: Chance

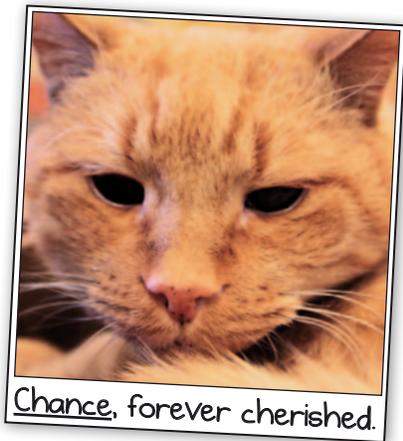
by Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

**irascible:** easily provoked to anger; very irritable

This adjective described Chance to a T when he first came to Tabby's Place. He used to wander around the Lobby complaining with a unique, extremely harsh mixture of a growl and a scream. He complained about the other cats. He complained when he wanted food. He complained when you gave him food. He complained.

To be honest, Chance had a good excuse: he lived the first ten years of his life in a dimly-lit, windowless basement, with no human attention. The poor light had rendered him largely blind, and the isolation left him un-socialized. By any reasonable criteria, Chance was not likeable.

But we loved Chance dearly. Not only did he have



Chance, forever cherished.

brief stints of friendliness, but there was something non-aggressive about his irascibility. He reminded one of a grumpy old grandfather, who enjoyed sitting on the porch and yelling at the kids passing by. We cherished Chance for being Chance. He never compromised.

Chance thrived here for almost a year. He slept in the sunlight; he ate; he received lots of kind attention. What more could a cat want?

We were happy to see him finally enjoying life.

Chances' kidney function was always iffy, but started to decline quickly after about 11 months. Chance was not the best candidate for hands-on supportive care, but we did what we could. It was sad to watch him slowing down inexorably. His growling decreased greatly and he spent more time sleeping.

Eventually, he stopped eating and was becoming uncomfortable. We knew it was time to let our old grouch go gently. He left us surrounded by the people who loved him so deeply. The old warrior went quietly and quickly, leaving Tabby's Place richer, as well as sadder, for having known this orange guy.

## Happy Endings: Jasper

by Joseph Brachocki, Adopter

Meeko had lived the first three years of his life in an animal shelter with his brother Randy. When I heard that these boys would be euthanized if not adopted, they went home with me right away. That was about 2 years ago. Sadly, Randy passed last year. I still miss him, and Meeko missed him even more.

So I set off to Tabby's. I could never give Meeko his Randy back, but I could give him a new brother to love. I wanted a cat who other people might overlook, and who I could handle medically. Most importantly, I wanted a cat who would get along with Meeko as perfectly as possible.

Enter Jasper. I could see why Jasper preferred the solarium; he had plenty of body heat to keep him warm.

Boy, did he like to eat! He was a little skittish at first, but as I sat down he moseyed over. Much like Meeko had done 2 years earlier, Jasper then switched into Rub Machine mode. I loved him. And that was it. I knew Jasper



Meeko & Jasper

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was Meeko's new brother, and that they would rub each other into love.

After a week of keeping them separated, I let them meet. During the first few days, there was some hissing. But now, there's only laying together, playing together, and of course rubbing together! Jasper's always there to rub me too. Even though every day, I have to get a pill into him (which he HATES), Jasper still finds it in him to rub and love me just moments later.

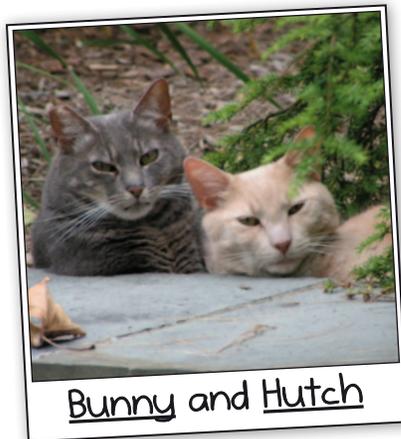
Jasper is just what we needed to fill the sadness in our hearts. Meeko would have gone downhill without him. Jasper's love has saved us! So thank you, Tabby's, for giving us his love. I know it was hard to part with him after so many years, and I know he misses you. But, we are so lucky to have him!



Meant-to-be brothers  
Jasper and Meeko.

## Where Are They Now? Bunny & Hutch

by Patricia Walsh, Adopter & Benefactor



Bunny and Hutch

My husband and I had just moved back from England when we discovered Tabby's Place and the wonderful work that's done here.

In one of our conversations with Jonathan, I mentioned we had an enormous stone barn. Jonathan told us that sometimes, cats who don't adjust to humans

are adopted as "barn cats." He took us to see Hutch and Bunny. They spent their days at the top of the ramp in a solarium, huddled out of reach of humans.

Buff-colored Hutch and tailless Bunny were best friends. I agreed to take them home, let them live for 3 weeks in large cages in our barn to acclimate them, and then let them go. For 6 months I had the joy of watching

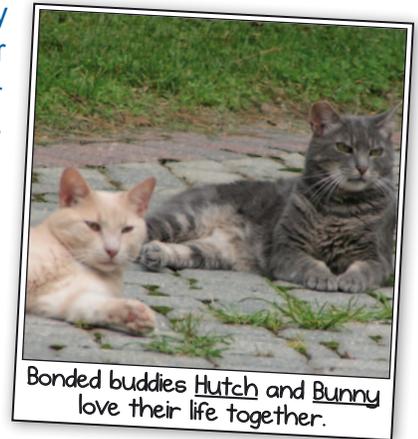
Bunny, a formerly wild cat, teach Hutch, born in a hoarding situation, how to hunt and sharpen his nails against trees, and how to find that cool hollow under the bushes to rest.

Bunny would take Hutch to a tree and jump up and scratch it, then look at Hutch, and he would imitate her. One day, I saw Hutch charge the birds at our feeder, but he was too slow. Next, Bunny came out of hiding and ran to him, and they touched noses. It was like she was encouraging him and telling him how to do it next time.

Another time, Hutch got trapped in the garage next door. When we finally got him out, he ran to Bunny. They touched noses and stared at each other for quite a while, as if cherishing the sight of one another after so long. They were wonderful to watch.

Then I saw them no more...not for 3½ years, though I kept a feeder going in the barn, water in a heated bowl and a heated igloo, just in case. The food was always gone, but I never saw them.

Then, this Thanksgiving, I saw Bunny up the street. My neighbor came out and asked if I knew her. His father had worked with Bunny and finally persuaded her to come inside for dinner and bed every night. They see Hutch hunt with her in the adjacent field. And they still lie under a bush in a warm hollow together when they get tired. They are having the time of their lives.



Bonded buddies Hutch and Bunny  
love their life together.

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