

Tabby's Place®

A CAT SANCTUARY



Quinn's Corner: A Dream Coming True with You

Angela Hartley, Development Director

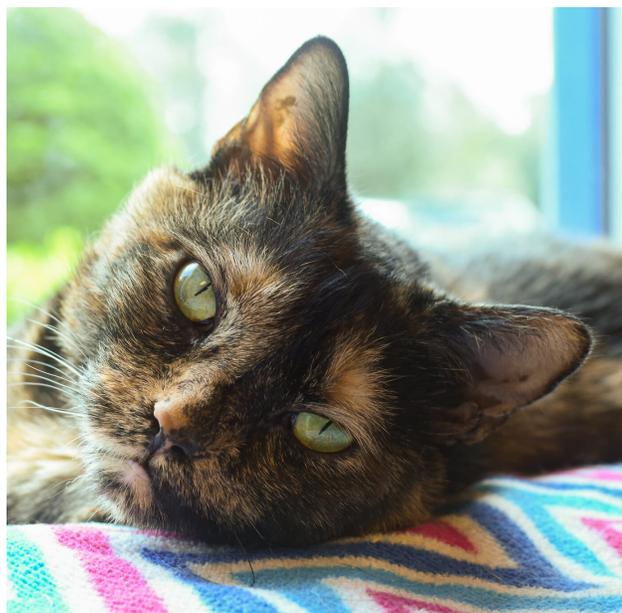
If you're reading this newsletter, you have a heart for the littlest, the last, and the lost. You're connected with Tabby's Place, believing in our mission to save cats from hopeless situations. And now, we hope you'll join us on the journey to make the world beautiful for the cats who need us most.

As this newsletter reaches you, we're beginning our first expansion since Tabby's Place opened in 2003. Quinn's Corner will be a haven for two groups of cats who struggle to find hope: FeLV+ cats and neonatal kittens.

In this issue, you'll get to know some of the brave, beautiful

newborns and FeLV+ cats we've helped through the years. We've only been able to do so on a limited basis, but Quinn's Corner will help us fling wide the doors to the kitties in greatest need. Cats in desperate circumstances have always looked to Tabby's Place for hope, coming to us from literally all around the world (four continents and counting).

Now we have our chance to be there for the ones still waiting.



Marjory, one of Tabby's Place's FeLV+ cats

We love knowing that there are people like you in this world...and we hope you'll join us in this new adventure.

Who Will You Help Save?

FeLV+ Cats

Cats infected with feline leukemia virus (FeLV) are the most vulnerable kitties in the world. The disease is difficult to diagnose and



Quinn's Corner will nurture FeLV+ cats like recently-adopted Gravy, pictured here with his new best friend

manage and requires a high level of individualized care.

Few shelters have the resources to embrace these dear cats, so they are typically euthanized upon diagnosis.

But Tabby's Place knows these amazing kitties are full of life and deserve a chance to thrive. Guen, Max, Sesame, India, and Lager, who you'll meet later in this newsletter, all agree.

Neonatal Kittens

The littlest cats need lion-sized tenderness and tenacity. Newborns often arrive without their mothers, making them utterly dependent on our love and expert care.

Quinn's Corner will allow us to



Neonatal kittens like Maeve will thrive in Quinn's Corner

care for these tiny wonders, who are underserved by rescue and veterinary communities due to their fragile nature and need of intense nurture. Turn the page to get to know some of our tiniest alumnae/i – hamster-sized heralds of the many babies we'll save together at Quinn's Corner. – A.H.

FeLV+ Profiles: Lager & Ale

Jay Hanigan, [Adopter](#) & [Board Treasurer](#)

My wife and I have always had cats, but we were unfamiliar with FeLV. All I knew was that I spent a lot of time after my volunteer shift playing with some kittens in Tabby's Place's FeLV+ room. They had such unique personalities and never failed to bring a huge smile to my face.

When the pandemic hit and volunteer shifts were greatly reduced, my wife and I asked if temporarily fostering the FeLV+ kittens would give the staff one less room to maintain. The next thing you know, we had a basement full of four cats.

Soon they were climbing on everything and chasing wand toys

with abandon.

Two of these feline teenagers were adopted. The remaining two, Ale and Lager, became quite comfortable in their new home, and we gave them the run of the house. We were delighted with their energy, curiosity, and affection. You would never know from watching them that they were anything other than healthy. We decided to permanently adopt them.

Knowing that FeLV+ cats face the very real possibility of a shortened life span, we doted on the siblings without guilt. They were spoiled with constant attention, toys, snacks, and affection.

One day, Ale seemed uncomfortable. His breathing became labored and we rushed him to the veterinarian, who diagnosed him with advanced lymphoma. There was nothing that could be done for him, and within 24 hours we made the excruciating decision to put him down.

We tried to minimize our sorrow by trading stories of all his endearing antics, and we took great solace in the



Feeding time for the FeLV+ kitties



Lovable Lager

knowledge that he knew he had a permanent home and a true family before he passed.

Lager thrives on today as a treasured member of our family.



The FeLV+ kittens at Tabby's Place

FeLV+ Profiles: Guen & Max

Kristen Phillips, [Adopter](#)

We are so lucky to have FeLV+ Max and Guen (known at Tabby's Place as Kolsch and Gose) as part of our family! Every life that Tabby's Place touches, feline and human alike, is better for the experience.

Max is a silly, boisterous boy. We joke that we rescued a boneless cat, because he just flumps on the ground as if his bones disappeared, asking for belly rubs. He's like a rag

doll when picked up. I often wake from a nap to find him purring on my lap, sleeping next to my little dog. Max has so much energy and drive and is now learning tricks and obstacle courses!

Guen is a sweet and cautious hunter who loves nothing more than to chase hair ties, shadows on the wall, and her own tail! When we wake in the morning, Guen sprints to the bathroom in the hopes we'll turn on the faucet for her to play with! She loves to watch squirrels out the window and will fall over on her side,

trying to push your hand into her to pet her more.

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Max and Guen, two happy Tabby's Place alums

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While both siblings initially tested positive for FeLV, Guen now tests negative and has been vaccinated, just in case. She's been in fantastic health.

Max has consistently tested positive, and we've kept an extra special eye on him. He did get an upper respiratory infection in the fall. We took him into the vet quickly, and

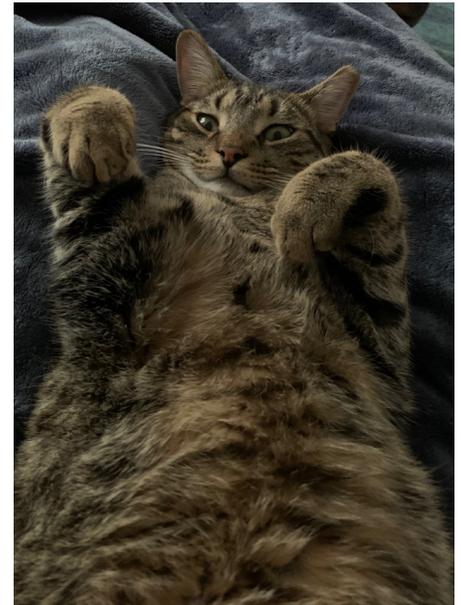


Gentle Guen

they treated his fever and gave him antibiotics and an eye ointment. He's been in excellent health ever since.

When it comes to living with cats who tested FeLV+, this is what I have to say: They're doing just fine. They get a dose of Lysine with each meal. When we see some cold symptoms or they just don't seem like themselves, we take them into the vet. Better safe than sorry.

A few weeks ago, I was having a rough day. I watched Max hunting squirrels through the back door window. He looked over, trilled at me, and flopped over for belly rubs. I snuggled him and told him, "I can't believe anyone would just give up on you without even trying. You're so sweet. Your life is important. Don't worry,



Marvelous Max

Maxie-millions. I won't ever give up on you."

Thank you, Tabby's Place, for our Max and Guen. They are beyond perfect.

Neonatal Kitten Profile: Maeve

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Maeve was only three days old when her mother dropped her in the middle of someone's open garage. Fortunately, that someone was a kindhearted sort.



Maeve snuggling into a heap of love

It turns out the little one's timing was practically perfect. Tabby's Place had just taken in a pregnant mama cat, Tiana, who gave birth to a litter of five. Gentle Tiana immediately welcomed Maeve into her nest, and the little "blended family" flourished.

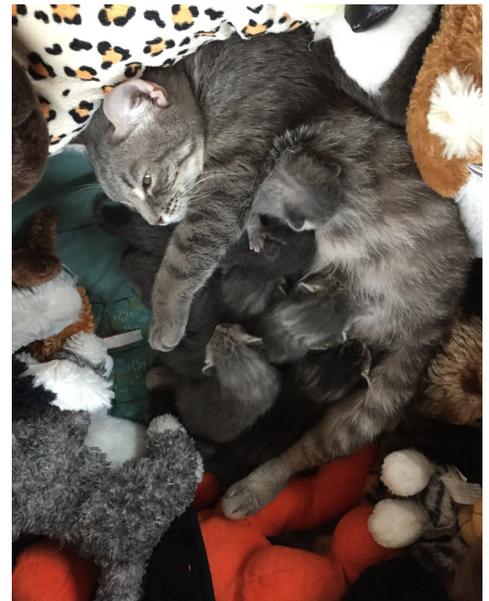
Nursing mother cats and their newborns require vigilant monitoring and safe, quiet accommodations, so Tiana and her tots moved to a foster home.

From there, Maeve's new life just kept getting more marvelous. She survived her fragile early days, grew strong and gleefully goofy, and was adopted with one of Tiana's other babies.

Tabby's Place is fortunate to have devoted volunteers and staff willing to serve as our "maternity ward," but relying on fosters limits

the number of mothers and kittens we can accommodate.

Our Kitten Nursery will enable us to house fragile newborns like Maeve and devoted mamas like Tiana, while providing the specialized care they need at this tender time in their lives.



Tiana with Maeve and all her tots

Neonatal Kitten Profiles: Jam, Fluff, & Marmalade

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Life for Jam, Fluff, and Marmalade should have been scrumptious from the start...but kittenhood can get messy.

This tawny trio was born in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. A well-intentioned rescuer spotted the kittens in a feral colony and scooped them up, not sure whether their mother was still nearby. Alas, these sweet smidgens were far too young to be away from their mama...and



Fluff

so, Tabby's Place would have to step into the gap.

Fortunately, our staff includes some seasoned newborn nurturers, and so the sweet siblings were in good hands. Sanctuary Associate Drew lovingly endured many sleepless nights bottle- and syringe-feeding the foundlings, keeping them in a carrier on her bed so she could check on them all night. Gentle little Jam was a special concern, as he struggled to gain weight.

But finally, the tiny survivors began to thrive, and their energy rose along with their weights. Soon Marmalade, Jam, and Fluff were playing like lunatics. The jubilant jamboree of kittenhood had finally begun. They needed a bit of help in learning to eat regular food, but Drew was there to patiently guide them, over and over, throughout the



Marmalade

messy process.

Without a (feline) mama, three little orange kittens had little hope of survival. But with devotion and a little sleep deprivation, Tabby's Place helped to tell a tastier tale. Many more babies will get a delicious start to life in our world-class Kitten Nursery.

FeLV+ Profiles: Sesame & India

Christine Talerico, Adopter

When people hear that I purposely adopt FeLV+ cats, they ask me, "Why?"

The story begins in a grocery store parking lot, where I encountered an emaciated tuxedo cat. He was curious and friendly and seemed to know I was there to help him. I named him Paddy, set him up comfortably in my garage, and made a vet appointment. The vet determined he had worms, lice and fleas, and weighed in at a tiny 6 pounds. Then, a SNAP test (a blood test that is run in-house and provides results within 15 minutes) determined Paddy was FeLV+. The news was devastating to me. I had the vet run the PCR test...positive.

After about 8 weeks, I had her run the test again...still positive.

I read everything I could about feline leukemia. Paddy would have to be separated from my other cat, and he would need a friend. I found that friend, Seamus, at a nearby shelter. Paddy and Seamus loved each other from the moment they met and became inseparable. Paddy blossomed from that small, dirty, stray into a 16-pound, beautiful boy.

Things were great for many months, until

they weren't. Paddy stopped eating and became very anemic, and I had to make the decision to put him to sleep. Seamus was devastated,

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Sesame

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lonely and crying all the time. He needed a friend.

I called shelter after shelter. Finally, I got a phone call from Tabby's Place. Yes, they still had FeLV+ residents Sesame and India!

The three kitties love each other. Seamus is like the big daddy to little India. She loves him so, following him adoringly and rubbing up against him. Silly Sesame is always getting into mischief, knocking things over and trying to squeeze into places clearly too small for his big body. He and Seamus rub heads and lick each other.

I am so happy with my special babies. I never think about how short their lives may or may not be. I just know that, while they are here, I want them to have the best life possible. They deserve nothing less.



India

It's Starting To Feel REAL

Jonathan Rosenberg,
Founder & Executive Director

*"Does this path have a heart?
If it does, the path is good. If it
doesn't, it is of no use."
- Jack Kornfield, A Path with Heart*

It has been deeply satisfying to walk the path with you, saving the broken, the lost and the unwanted. These were cats that nobody else wanted. Just over 3,300 to date, in fact.

There have been few "problems" we couldn't handle. Diabetes? Bring it on. Paraplegia? No sweat. Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)? Oh, well, not that.

FeLV is tricky to diagnose, not well understood, and can be transmitted casually, requiring great flexibility in housing. We simply did not have enough space to care for these cats properly and safely. It would take a miracle to put Tabby's Place in a position to welcome these sadly neglected felines.

To our amazement, that miracle took seed six years ago. I won't repeat the story here. Many of you are familiar with the events. If not, you can read about them [here](#).

While very exciting, expanding a structure has many moving parts,

and the process is complex and time consuming. Initial excitement can wane.

Now things are heating up again, and the joy is palpable. We received approval from our municipality to apply for a construction permit. Not only that ... we have just signed the contract with our general contractor, the "builder."

This all means we have entered the final stretch. Groundbreaking is in sight. And while there will be unavoidable hiccups, Quinn's Corner will be here before we know it.



Artist's renderings of future Quinn's Corner suites

Tabby's Place is a Four-Star Phenom!

We're thrilled to report that Tabby's Place has earned an elite 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

"Tabby's Place's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Tabby's Place to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's

most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going



to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Tabby's Place."

Tabby's Place strives to be a faithful steward of your generosity, and we're gratified to receive this elite rating. We couldn't have achieved this distinction without your confidence in us through the years.

Thank you for helping Tabby's Place to shine as one of the most trustworthy nonprofits in the world! The cats – and you, our beloved Tabby's Place family – deserve nothing less.

Hurrah For Your Heart: 2020 Financial Review

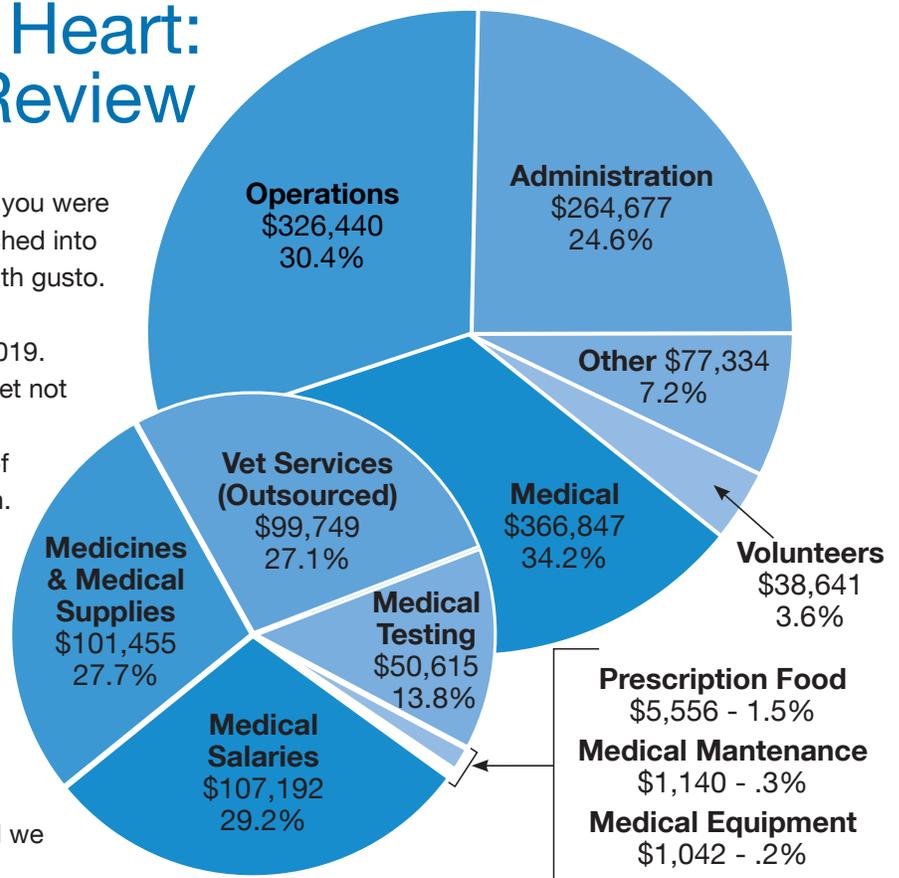
Angela Hartley, Development Director

Even in the difficult year that was 2020, you were here for our cats in a colossal way. You reached into the kindest parts of your hearts and gave with gusto.

Thanks to you, Tabby's Place raised \$1,699,155.14 in 2020, 10% more than in 2019. We are astounded, dazzled, grateful...and yet not surprised, since we know who you are!

We always strive to be good stewards of your generosity, and 2020 was no exception. We battened down the hatches when the pandemic struck, and we succeeded in cutting our expenses by 14.44% compared to 2019. The breakdown of our costs is displayed at right. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank you, more than we can ever express. You are everything to our cats, and we love you!



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