

Tabby's Place®

A CAT SANCTUARY



New Beginnings: Ramekin

Angela Hartley, Development Director

April Fool's Day was no joke for one wee wonder.

Ramekin arrived at Tabby's Place on April 1, underweight, hypothermic, and with a large neck wound. Our vet team leapt into action, providing heat support, an

IV catheter, and intensive care. Fragile Ramekin went into foster care with one of our skilled staffers, where he received 'round-the-clock monitoring and frequent tube feeding.

Just when it seemed he'd turned the corner, Ramekin became severely anemic. Without a blood transfusion, there would be no hope.

But thanks to you, the Tabby's Place dictionary doesn't include the word "hopeless."

Ramekin had arrived with his mama Mahi-Mahi, several siblings, and a beefy, lovable adult named Sturgeon (who could be an uncle, or even Ramekin's father). Sturdy Sturgeon was a perfect blood donor for



Ramekin is growing stronger – and even more adorable – every day



Ramekin's cup overflows with hope and zest, thanks to you

his little relative, and Ramekin rallied.

Today, Ramekin's cup runs over with hope and zest. He's hilariously small but makes up for his size with leopard-large joy.

Mewing miracles like Ramekin can only thrive thanks to you. Thank you for wrapping our kittens in your love!

Whither Those Whiskers?



Where Tabby's Place Cats Come From

Angela Hartley, Development Director

Tabby's Place lives to rescue cats from "hopeless situations," and cats tumble into such circumstances all around the world. Although 93% of our residents come from our own backyard (NJ/PA/NY), we've answered cries for help from across the country and across the Atlantic. We're honored that rescuers (and cats) around the globe know Tabby's Place as a one-of-a-kind haven of hope. Thank you for helping us to open our hearts to feline "neighbors" near and far.1



Mr. Thief & J'Happy came over 7,000 miles across the Atlantic

1Data included in this article is from 2017-2020.

Reopening Update

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

Until 12 months ago, Tabby's Place was the epitome of openness. We welcomed people from the public seven days a week, and we were swarming with volunteers.

The place was a beehive of activity and the cats loved the attention and excitement.

But the global pandemic brought



We're all excited to step into the future together, especially Cotton

the party to a screeching halt. We abruptly went from very open to very closed.

Given the furry charges in our care, we were cautious, restricting entrance to the building to employees, pre-screened volunteers and the occasional service person.

In the last few months, the prevalence of vaccinated people in our area has allowed us to begin relaxing restrictions ... and this will continue.

Currently, we are again allowing adopters to visit in person, by appointment, after an [online application](#) has been approved. We have also resumed participation in external events (e.g., local fairs, animal events). So, keep an eye out for us if you are in the area.

We expect that, in the next few



Carbon knows we have so much to look forward to

weeks, we will begin accepting appointments for tours. Watch our website for the appearance of a calendar allowing online reservations.

We are thrilled to see the world reopening, and we are looking forward to seeing you in person.

Working 9 to 5: Cats & Separation Anxiety

Nancy Meyer, [Volunteer](#), [Adopter](#), and Feline Behavioral Consultant

Now that COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, many of us will no longer be working from home. This can pose a psychological challenge to our pets.

Separation anxiety is less common in cats than in dogs, but it



Valerie prefers her routines undisturbed, and your cat might prefer that you stay home with her forever, but you can help her to adjust

does occur. Genetics, the previous experience of being orphaned, and a clingy personality can predispose a cat to this behavior.

The following can be signs of separation anxiety in your cat:

- Excessive meowing
- Under- or overeating
- Vomiting up food or hair balls
- Excessive self-grooming, sometimes to the point of

removing all fur from the belly

- Elimination outside of the litter pan
- Destructive behavior
- Unusual excitement upon your departure and return
- Trying to escape

There are several steps you can take to soothe your frantic feline:

- Leave a television or radio on.
- Use synthetic [pheromones](#) to

[continues on the next page](#)



Cats handle stress in a variety of ways, including hiding (like Creamsicle and Everest)

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- help create a sense of calm in the environment.
- Provide plenty of toys and puzzles for psychological enrichment.
- Satisfy prey drive by allowing your cat to forage for food.
- If feasible, start with shorter absences.
- Eliminate “departure cues:” don’t fuss over your cat when you leave, and ignore attempts to engage your attention. Don’t let your cat hear your keys or see you preparing to leave.

- If possible, don’t leave from the same door every time.
- Upon returning home, wait until your cat exhibits calm behavior – not meowing or rubbing against your legs – before acknowledging her.
Remember, some behaviors can indicate medical conditions. In case of new symptoms, I always recommend having your vet examine your cat to rule out physical causes.



Expect your kitty to be looking for you for awhile after you return to pre-pandemic routines. Fiesta, pictured here, is looking for dinner delivery

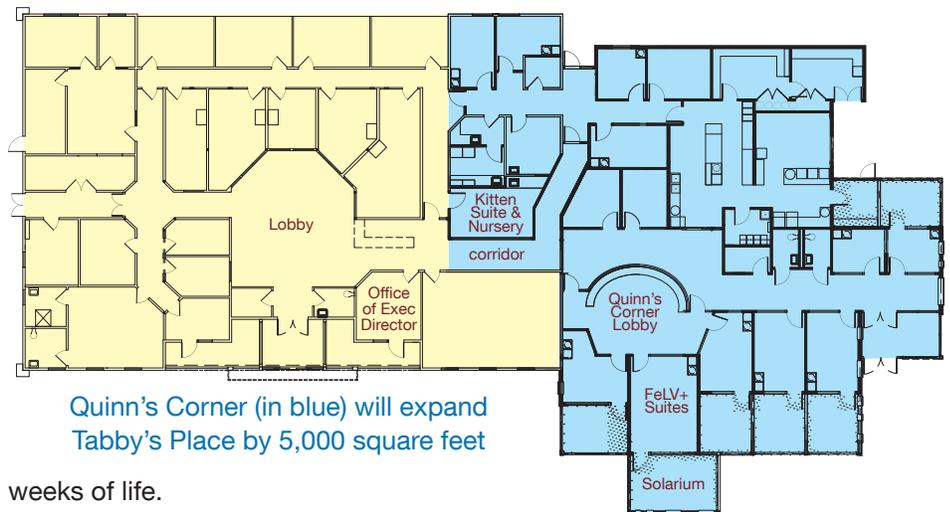
Tour Quinn’s Corner

Lisa Lauria, Development Associate

Dreams can be difficult to envision, so let me take you on a guided tour of the expansion as it becomes a physical reality.

Imagine entering the Lobby of Tabby’s Place as our paraplegic “greeter,” Olive, scoots over to greet you. As you walk by the Office of our Executive Director into a newly designed corridor, something catches your eye. It’s our joyful new Kitten Adoption Suite, full of youngsters who have graduated from our Kitten Nursery and are ready to dream of forever homes.

Directly behind this new “romper room,” the world-class Kitten Nursery provides a nurturing space for neonatal kittens. Here, newborns receive vigilant monitoring, care, and feeding during their fragile first



weeks of life.

You pull your gaze away from the kittens and catch your first clear view of Quinn’s Corner. The Quinn’s Corner Lobby is a bright, open area, where friendly FeLV+ cats snuggle with visitors like you.

Look through the glass walls of the Quinn’s Corner Lobby, and you’ll see several suites of different sizes, each with happy and playful kitties. The largest suite is outfitted with

abundant vertical space, climbing ramps and cozy cubbies, and houses persistently infected FeLV+ cats.

The smaller suites, some of which double as offices, are home to cats with discordant FeLV test results. These “micro-suites” are unique to Tabby’s Place, enabling us to take those cats who truly have nowhere else to turn. Discordant cats cannot live with persistently infected cats or FeLV- kittens, but in Quinn’s Corner, they enjoy feline and human friendship all day. Each suite has its own enclosed solarium, where FeLV+ cats enjoy fresh air, sunshine and chirping birds.

It’s a beautiful dream, isn’t it? What’s even more beautiful is seeing it become a reality thanks to loving people like you.



A rendering of Tabby’s Place with our Quinn’s Corner extension; click [here](#) for more images

Flourishing with FeLV: Gravy

Angela Hartley, Development Director

In the peak of the pandemic, one cat's luck ran dry. But thanks to you, groovy Gravy was about to taste life's juiciest joy.

Gravy was found wounded outdoors, making his way to Tabby's Place through animal control. It's



Gravy with his new best friend

a good thing Gravy came to us, because he tested positive for feline leukemia virus (FeLV), a diagnosis that would leave him with few options elsewhere.

But, like you, Tabby's Place knows that cats like Gravy can enjoy full, happy lives, and they deserve all the love we can give. Gravy flourished, gobbling up hugs and wet food with equal exuberance. It was a feast of fun to have this shaggy, sweet-spirited boy with us. But the most delicious day came when Gravy was adopted.

As you know, Tabby's Place is building an expansion called Quinn's Corner to nurture even more FeLV+ cats. With your help, phenomenal cats like Gravy will savor a delicious



Life can be delicious for FeLV+ cats like Gravy and the people who adore them

future. Thank you for making this possible for them!

Profiles in Kitten Courage: Tanzy

Angela Hartley, Development Director

"Tanzanite" is a powerful name for a cat, but this precious gem had a rocky start. On a steamy summer day, animal control officers discovered the pale newborn, nearly lifeless and punctured with bite wounds that were filled with maggots. Since Tabby's Place is a haven for cats in the most desperate circumstances, they rushed her to us.



Tabby's Place gave Tanzy something to sing about

We named the little jewel Tanzanite -- "Tanzy" for short -- not knowing how long she'd live to sparkle. At 2.5 ounces, Tanzy was the smallest kitten our vet staff had ever catheterized. But our tenacious team was able to get an IV connected, and they worked tirelessly to save her.

Tanzy pulled through her trauma and shimmered to life, only to

face a new mountain: paraplegia. Although we initially assumed Tanzy's inability to walk was caused by her injury, X-rays revealed a birth defect in her spine.

Undaunted by her Special Needs, Tanzy overflowed with life, bringing laughter and love everywhere she scooted. Thanks to world-class care in her earliest days, Tanzy



Tiny Tanzy shortly after her arrival at Tabby's Place

is now a flourishing young lady, as cuddly as a teddy bear but as confident as a queen in her forever home.

Your kindness helped to make this possible...and your generosity will enable us to save many more tiny jewels at a world-class kitten nursery in our Quinn's Corner expansion. Thank you for treasuring the Tanzies of the world with us!

Forever Loved: Mary

Jonathan Rosenberg, Founder & Executive Director

There have been a handful of cats at Tabby's Place of whom we said, "This might be the nicest cat in the world." But I believe Mary is the true title holder.

Mary was a small girl with long gray hair and a mere nubbin of a tail. Prior to coming to us, Mary was a staff favorite at a NJ



Mary with Angelo

shelter. But Mary had severe issues with incontinence, and it became impossible for the shelter to continue to house her: she was highly unlikely to be adopted, and she required a lot of "back-end" maintenance.

Happily, Tabby's Place was thrilled to welcome Mary into our family. She won the hearts of staff, volunteers, and, especially, her feline roommates. Simply put: Mary loved everyone, and everyone loved her.

Most of the time, Mary could be found curled up with one or more of her feline friends. Big, gentle Angelo was a frequent companion, but Mary never lacked "snuggle buddies."

Despite the increasing severity of her medical problems, Mary remained gentle, loving and appreciative. She never complained. At worst, she would appear "shamed" for having done something to cause us trouble.

It's impossible to overemphasize the aura of love and kindness that



Beloved Mary

Mary exuded. Her presence pierced the heart, inspiring an overwhelming compassion.

When Mary succumbed to kidney disease, after five years at Tabby's Place, the void left behind was a gaping wound. How could such a wonderful being have left us alone?

I wish I had a good answer for you. But I know that we were all enriched by having known and cared for Mary. Rest in peace, baby girl.

Your Legacy of Love

Angela Hartley, Development Director

You choose to love when others turn away. You gaze at the cats "no one wants" and say, "you matter to me." Your love is too large to fit within a single lifetime.



Many extraordinary cats like Boom will need us in the years ahead, and you can be here for them with a bequest

You can continue changing the world for cats for decades to come. By leaving a bequest to Tabby's Place, you guarantee that you will be here for the little ones who need you.

A few simple plans now can save thousands of cats' lives in the years ahead. Estate gifts are generally the most significant, life-saving donations Tabby's Place receives.

There will never be a day when you don't want to do everything you can to help cats in need. And by working with Tabby's Place, you can make sure you're always here for them.

We are happy to help you create a planned gift that best suits your needs. Please feel free to contact Development Director Angela Hartley



Little ones like Elliot will look to Tabby's Place for hope in the years ahead ... will you help us to be here when they need us?

at ah@tabbysplace.org or 908-237-5300 ext 235.

It is an honor to serve the cats with you!

DO YOU WANT TO CHERISH THE CATS EVERY MONTH? BECOME A MONTHLY SPONSOR!



Happy Endings: Simon

Karen Roach, Adopter

Simon came into my life after two previous diabetic seniors.

I'd adopted the first of these dear ones in December 2019, when he was 20 years old. I expected to have him no more than 3-4 months, but he thrived until January 2021!

Around that time, I came across Tabby's Place, and Warren caught my eye. He was elderly, diabetic, and dealing with kidney disease. I brought him home in January 2021. Sadly, I only had him for two weeks before he succumbed to his many health issues. I comforted myself knowing he got a lot of love in those

two weeks!

I wasn't planning on adopting another Special Needs kitty for a while, but I couldn't seem to stop scrolling through Tabby's Place's adoptable cats. I found myself stopping on Simon's picture. I was a little nervous reaching out so soon after Warren's passing, but when I finally did, staffer Karina's response was, "I was thinking about you and was hoping you would consider another baby!" Apparently, they've got me pegged!

I work in a specialty hospital as a Registered Veterinary Technician, and even my coworkers commented, "another diabetic, Karen?!" My response was that there are not a lot of people willing to take on a Special Needs cat, and with 27 years of experience in the field, and easy access to top notch care, I am uniquely qualified to look after a cat with health problems.

Not for a second have I regretted bringing home the handsome kitty now known as Simon Gabriel! He is such a sweet, laid back guy, with the deepest purr, and he gets along wonderfully with his housemates, Josie and Fergus. Other than his propensity for eating and destroying plants, he is practically perfect!



Simon adores his new Mom, and vice versa!



Simon loves his personal porch



Simon loves life with his new brother (a lookalike for Tabby's Place resident Cotton)

Read more of our cats' adventures at

FELIS CATUS

the official blog of Tabby's Place

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