



SAM SEZ . . .

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when *Cats' Cradle* phones ring constantly about pregnant cats, mama cats with kittens, and orphan kittens who desperately need help in order to survive. You can help by:

- 1) **FOSTERING** (see boxed article on page 2; related articles on page 3)
- 2) **DONATING** -- This is the season when we take in the most cats.

Your donations provide:

- Safe shelter and food
- Warm towels, heating pads & formula
- Spay or neuter, and vaccinations
- Medical treatment when needed

See the stories inside about some of the kitties that *Cats' Cradle* volunteers have taken in recently, like **April**, the tiny kitten someone found screaming in the bushes; **Frosty**, who suffered a gunshot wound from his former owner (see page 7); two teeny, tiny orphaned babies, who barely have their eyes open, and are being nursed by Diana around the clock (see page 3); and **Maddy**, who growled and hissed like a wild cat when we got him, but now gets belly rubs in his new home with Kathy and Cameron Strikeleather (see page 6).

Cats' Cradle also provides long term and even lifetime care for special needs' cats, like **Iago** (pictured below). And we provide trap, neuter, and release for feral cats in a safe environment. Of note, we want to help the Jensen Family sell property adjacent to them because they care for a large feral cat population and we would like to see cat-friendly people purchase this property to protect this feral community (see page 2).

Simply stated, we couldn't save any of these precious cats without your support. Please give as generously as you can. And don't forget to check local newspapers, *IWANNA*, and our website for pictures of our adoptable kitties. Thank you!

Don't Forget the PetSmart Adopt-A-Thon May 4, 5, 6 at PetSmart in Hickory, NC!
***Cats' Cradle* will be there raising funds and adopting out kitties!**
If you can help, call Lynda at 828-433-4925 or Karyn at 828 638-6565

 Sam



Sweet, Blind Iago Needs A Home

Iago is long time *Cats' Cradle* resident who is a wonderful, huge, 5-year-old black domestic shorthair male cat. Iago came to *Cats' Cradle* as a feral, missing an eye and with an infection in the remaining eye, which he lost as well. Although he is blind, Iago has the sweetest personality, gets around amazingly well in a familiar environment and craves whatever attention he can get! This big guy is a lap cat who really fills a lap, fills a heart with love, a wonderful fellow for a quiet household. Iago is neutered, tested, has all shots, is litterbox trained and an *indoor only* kitty. For more information, call Lynda at (828) 433-4925 or Karyn at (828) 638-6565.



Fostering Saves Lives!

Fostering -- that is, taking care of kittens and cats until they can be adopted into permanent homes -- saves lives.

Humane organizations are understaffed with two few resources, short on space and money, and can take only a fraction of the countless cats who need homes. Foster care homes save lives by providing short-term care for immediately adoptable cats, and long-term care like mamas with nursing babies, orphaned kittens who need round-the-clock attention, and other cats with special needs.

This issue *Cats' Cradle* wants to give special thanks and WELCOME to new foster care givers **Sue and Stan Bumgarner!**

You join veteran foster caregivers Jeannie Bowman, Lynda Garibaldi, Karyn Lookabill, Anice Overton, Diana & John Rath, June Robison and Inma Williams. Thanks to everyone for their life-saving foster care. If you are interested in providing foster care to cats and kittens, please contact Lynda Garibaldi at (828) 433-4925.

Land Near Feral Cat Sanctuary For Sale

Olga and Gene Jensen are the couple who offer their property to provide food, water and shelter for feral cats -- well over 100 cats -- received from us and other humane groups and individuals (as long as they are neutered and have updated rabies vaccinations).

There are three properties near them (in Caldwell County off Hwy 321 between Lenoir and Blowing Rock) that are for sale. It is vital to the feral cat program that is in place that cat-friendly buyers purchase these properties.

The first is their son's house -- sadly he is going through a brutal divorce and must sell -- this is where we released initially a dozen cats and since then another 15. The son's house is a 2-story upscale custom made home with first floor large living room / fireplace, dining room, kitchen with up to date appliances, large family room, bath, 2 bedrooms. Upstairs is one large bedroom with large bath including a spa. There is a room under the house that is a workshop / kitty shelter. There are lots of decks on the house and many closets. House comes with 3 acres. \$350,000

The second is property across from the Jensens and also shelters feral cats. It is a modest brick house on Waterfalls Road, 3 bedrooms, 10 acres and, for sale for \$150,000 by owner.

The third is 5 acres of land bordering Hwy 321. It has rough building / workshop area with living quarters upstairs, water and electricity. Includes an older trailer on the property. Asking \$99,000. Olga says property will increase in value quickly as it is adjacent to and has access directly from Hwy 321. Feral cats roam there as well.

Additionally, the Jensens will put in electricity and water for any cat lovers who will care for the cats and are willing to put up a mobile home on the 60 acres where we and they have released many more feral cats. This property is behind and beside their son's property. For more information call Olga Jensen at (828) 759-0453. Email address is jensengeo@bellsouth.net

Important Phone Numbers

For low cost spay neuter
call Humane Alliance, Asheville, NC at
828-252-8804

For local pick-up, low cost spay neuter through Humane Alliance
call the Humane society of Catawba County at
(828) 327-3878

Go to www.catawbahumane.org and select Programs to
download important information and form to fill out
for Humane Alliance pickup from HSCC facilities

After Hours Emergency Clinic,
Hickory, NC
(828) 328-2660

Clown-Kids at PetSmart

On Saturday, April 14th, some very young clowns: Emily Crowe, Matthew Howard and Mallory Watts visited the *Cats' Cradle* booth at PetSmart and created balloon sculptures for those who came to admire the kitties.

The children are members of the children's choir at Highland Baptist Church in Hickory. Under the direction of their choir director, June Robison, they have been learning how to make the sculptures during their rehearsals in order to use this skill to benefit others in the community. Although the children did not charge any money for the balloons, some recipients chose to give donations to the *Cats' Cradle* Fund.

The clowns even enjoyed some cuddling time with the adoptable kitties. A big "thank you" goes to these caring children whose presence put smiles on many faces and brought in needed donations for the kitties.



*June and
clowns admire
a beautiful
black and
white kitty*



Pictured from left to right are Lisa Garibaldi, Matthew Howard, Emily Crowe, Mallory Watts, and June Robison

Our Wonderful Life-Saving Foster Caregivers!

Volunteer Highlight: Diana Rath



John Rath holding Millie and Diana Rath holding April with Cheerios on her lap!

Once upon a time . . . on a dark and stormy night . . . I was born. Oh wait, that's way too far back!!! To start again, I've always been an animal lover from a long family of animal lovers. I currently am the willing servant of 3 dogs, 2 cats and a cockatiel.

When I decided that the corporate world could run the rat race without this particular rat, I was living in Atlanta. I sat down and thought about what I really loved and, of course, animals popped right up. So I went to a grooming school while looking for a kennel I could buy. I found one in Orangeburg, SC and owned it for 10 years.

It was during that time that I really became involved in animal rescue, and I helped start and run the Tri-County Humane Society. We were not happy with the SPCA in town because they were way too close with the pound. They followed their rules and actually helped with the euthanasia.

We, on the other hand, ran a no-kill society. I took care of most of the animals at my kennel free of charge and did the adoptions from there. That is where I got my experience raising tiny ones -- must have been in the hundreds. They were brought to me from all over. Fortunately I had a very caring vet who helped me tremendously, even giving me a formula (see page 9) for raising any baby mammal.

When I moved to Morganton in October of 2005, I became aware of *Cats' Cradle* through an article written by Lynda saying they needed foster care for mama cats with babies. I talked it over with my long-suffering husband, John, and suggested that since I had a separate crafts studio, it would be a perfect place to foster care kitties. His one stipula-

tion was that I couldn't keep them all!

Thus began our association with Karyn, Lynda and *Cats' Cradle*. It has been tremendously rewarding and satisfying. Lynda and Karyn are so kind and hard-working on behalf of the cats. I try to keep my foster population to four and have been so happy to see them adopted to good homes, although it is hard to give them up.

I would encourage anyone with even a speck of space to foster care. You will find it gives *you* more than you give!

Diana

Foster Highlight: Sue & Stan Bumgarner

Sue and Stan Bumgarner were looking for a kitty after losing a treasured furry friend to old age. Their dog, Mollie, was lonesome and they just enjoyed having a kitty in the house.

Our hardworking volunteer, Nancy Jones, a friend of the Bumgarner's, mentioned that they may want to check if *Cats' Cradle* had any kitties that might be good candidates for their household.

On the first visit they didn't find what they were looking for but were intrigued by the work that we were doing at *Cats' Cradle*. The next time they came to PetSmart, the Bumgarners saw **Zane** and decided to take her home. Zane was a wonderful kitty but not the personality they were looking for in a cat friend. However, they decided to keep Zane and become a *Cats' Cradle* foster home, allowing us to house kitties with them until they are adopted!

We welcome the Bumgarner's and bless them bunches for their love and care of the homeless furries at *Cats' Cradle*. The photo shown is Sue (left) adopting out Zane to her new family, Heather Shrum and her mom Vicki!! We just LOVE a happy ending for our kitties and *Cats' Cradle* hopes to find the perfect kitty for Sue and Stan as well.



Sue, Heather and her mom, Vicki, with Zane

Adoptions

PUMPKIN

Dear *Cats' Cradle*,

I just wanted to send you a letter to let you know I'm doing okay. I'm including a picture to show you how my new home is working out. I have two friends at my new home: Beth, the dog, and Gracie May, my girl friend. I just wanted to let you know how I was doing and to wish you a Merry Christmas . . .



Pumpkin Watts snoozing contentedly at home

Pumpkin

DIZZY and OREO

Thanks for having **Dizzy** at the PetSmart store and also telling me about **Oreo**. They have brought a lot of joy and laughter to our family.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Morehead Family



Dizzy and Oreo napping sweetly

KITTYKAT

The little at-risk white kitten was only 2 weeks old when Lynda Garibaldi of *Cats' Cradle* got her. Named **Jackie** then, she was nursed by Rhea (also the mother of Sunni, Sammi, Sadie and Suzie Q). She was given so much TLC, she was a thriving bundle of energy by the time of her adoption to Janet Workman.

Look at her now in her new home with Janet who re-named her KittyKat.



KittyKat and Janet

JANUS

This is Amiee Miller. My husband and I adopted one of your cats last weekend (April 7, 2007). My husband said you called him while I was at work. I wanted to send you an note to personally tell you about how things are going with us and our new kitten (originally named **Sammi** by *Cats' Cradle*). We originally decided to name her Jupiter, but then changed her name to Janus as we thought it went better with her new sister's name Junah.

She has fit in so well with our other cats. Junah now has someone to play with and for some odd reason she just fell in love with our 10-year-old male cat, Newman. She is just the sweetest kitten we could have ever hoped for. I am very happy to have adopted her.



Janus and Junah napping together.

I wish you continued success in the future and I am sure we will be seeing each other again in the future.

I have attached a picture of Junah and Janus together that I thought you might enjoy.

Best of Luck,
Amiee

CHLOE KEELY KEENA JARRETT

This is Chloe Keely Keena Jarrett of the Jarrett family! At *Cats' Cradle* she was known as **Rascal**.

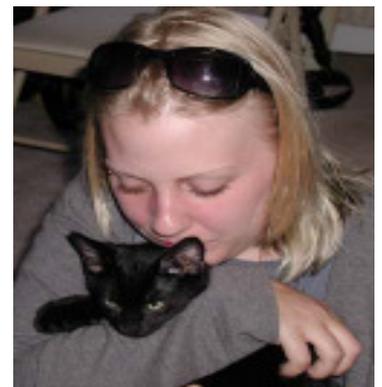
The Jarretts had already adopted **Butterball**, re-named Raven Dublin Sabrina Jarrett; **Lily**, re-named Chelsea Lilly Song Jarrett; and **Tank**, re-named Sherman Tank Regis Jarrett.



HERSHEY

Stephanie and Anthony saw **Hershey's** picture in the *Hickory Daily Record's* feature of *Cats' Cradle* kitties for adoption, which is presented each week by Jennifer Muenster.

They thought it may just be love at first sight, but as you can see, when they came to pick Hershey up at PetSmart the following Saturday, Steph KNEW it was love!!



Love That Hershey!

Adoptions, continued on page 6

2007 Donations

Individual (\$25-\$50)

Shirley & Larry Baker
Bob & Peggy Baum
Tammy Benson
Laura Bush-Sedlacek
Diane Clark
Wendy Dickinson
Karen Haines
Terry Hedrick
Mohammad Karimi
Lillian Mauney
Leila McMichael
Sonya Moore
Monica & Gary Olinger
Elizabeth Parker
Irene & Terry Parker
Judy Perez
Ruby Prewitt
Catherine Randall
Cathy Ray
Jonnie A. Pons
Emil & Madge Roseman
Linda Sette
Cindy Thorne
Kathryn Tisdale
Mavis Tulluck
Cindy & Lenny Whisnant
Doris Whisnant
Phyllis Wogan

Family (\$50-\$100)

Elaine Bass
Cheryl Best
Susan, Aubrey & Sarah Brown
Brenda & David Callahan
Campbell Design
Margaret Causby
Linda Clark
Stacy Costner
Billy & Lisa Cox
Toni Dills
Thomas & Debra Dittman
Frank & Bobby Dooley
Muriel Dye
Heidi & Jay Dreher
Lisa & Lisa Ellsworth
Chris & Lucille Hartmann
Lisa Hayes
Dean Johnson & Dyeing &
Boarding Depts of BSN
Nancy & Bill Jones
Brenda Kincaid
Judith and Walter Kozma
Eunice Maier
The Medina Family
Sonya Moore
Anice Overton
Vesta & Lon Pyatte
Candy & Ken Webb

Sponsor (\$100-\$250)

Tim Adamczyk & Tom Wyatt
Ruth Austin
Bobby & Vivian Cantor
Teresa Causby
Cheryl & Myron Center
Melynda & Charles Chatham
Jerry & Lois Clark
Lauri & Rik Craig
Scott & Charlotte Davis
Dorothy Harding
Anita Harris & Elizabeth Yerby
John & Patty Holland
Suzanne Jones
Karyn & Tony Lookabill
Judith & Roger Lowery
James Carton Miller
Shirlee & DeWitt Miller
Cheryl Oxford & Louise White
Colleen & Robert Pichi
Chris & Danielle Pennell
Barbara & Danny Power
Mary Lou Price
Nancy Puckett
John & Vicky Shaw
Paul & Evelyn Wardzinski
Susan & Jaye Whitmire

Sustainers (\$250-\$500)

Willard Black &
Old Hickory Tannery
Carolyn Burgess
Karen Clark Caruso
Christine Goodnight &
Helen Hogan
Frances & Jimmy Fox
Sarah & George Johnson
Patty Moffatt & Steve Noggle
Rose Romo
Charlotte & Jim Simasek
Inma Williams
Susan Zarcone

Patrons (\$500-\$1,000)

Crystal Bailey
Norma & Richard Blackburn
Tina Clement
Linda Collins
Lynda Garibaldi
Charlotte McMillan
The Petco Foundation
Lin Willis
The Wisener Family

Benefactor (\$1,000-\$5,000)

Steve Farlow
The Mull Foundation
PetSmart Charities

In Honor Of . . .

PEOPLE

Karen Clark Caruso by Jerry & Lois Clark
Karen Clark Caruso by Mary C. Price
Karen Clark Caruso by Tammy Benson
Karen Clark Caruso by Cindy Thorne

Linda Clark by Jerry & Lois Clark

Linda Clark by Mary C. Price

Linda Clark by Karen Clark-Caruso

Linda Collins by Cindy & Lenny Whisnant

Linda Collins by Susan, Aubrey & Sarah Brown

Lillian Mauney by William & Laura Satterwhite

Our Life-Saving Foster Caregivers by Lynda Garibaldi

ANIMALS

Bonnie, Buddy, Stanley -- Beloved Cats of Karen & Carley Caruso --
by Jerry & Lois Clark

Tucker, Cooper, Heidie, Charlie -- Beloved Pets of Brian, Linda, Kaitlin
and Karie Clark -- by Jerry & Lois Clark

My Babies -- **Bonnie, Stanley, and Buddy** -- by Karen Clark-Caruso

Pistol & Rascal -- kittens I adopted from *Cats' Cradle* --
by Jeanna Renee Hubble

MAXINE

In Honor Of . . . eleven-year-old Maxine Cantor, beloved cat of Vivian and Bobby Cantor.



In Memory Of . . .

PEOPLE

Cecil Baker by Linda Collins

Hattie Rink by Linda Collins

Norman Shade, Sr. by Linda Collins

Patrick Ciepley by Monica & Gary Olinger

Dianne Metcalf Owen by Judy Perez

Ida Mae Bradley by Chris & Lucille Hartmann

ANIMALS

Cletus & Maggie -- Beloved cats of Karen & Carley Caruso --
by Jerry & Lois Clark

Calli, Graham, Boots, Jake, Patch, Bud & Little Bit --
Beloved Pets of the Clark Family in Gloucester, VA -- by Jerry & Lois Clark

Our Beloved Calico, **Dixie Anne** -- by Judith & Walter Kozma

Gray Boy & Wild Thing -- Anita Harris & Elizabeth Yerby

Andy's Beloved **Snowflake** -- 11-year-old female -- by Leila McMichael

Sprinkles, Mimi, Chloe, Elsa -- by Lynda & Lisa Garibaldi

Adoptions *Continued from page 5*

MADDY

When **Maddy**, the 7-year-old Maine Coon, came to foster mother Karyn, he was matted and had ringworm. Our resident grooming specialist, SuperFoster Diana Rath fixed him right up! A happy ending for all, Maddy was adopted by a loving couple, Kathy and Cameron Strikeleather, who appreciated all our efforts on Maddy's behalf!



Diana Rath and clippers. And, yes, that all came from Maddy!!!



Maddy sans fur! He looks like he feels so much better!

CRICKET

This is **Cricket**, the 3-legged wonder. She likes to butt heads. She talks all the time. Too bad I don't understand her!

My husband's cousin from Switzerland took this picture.

Cricket was adopted by Charlotte Simasek about 4 years ago along with another cat named Moxie, not pictured.



SCOUT and SHADOW

Rosie and Shadow, from left to right, with Scout in the foreground. Scout and Shadow were adopted by Karen White Maddox.



ANNIE, ALEX & AVERY



Alex and Avery were adopted, along with Annie (inset) as kittens by Terry and Irene Parker. See How They Grow!!!

Gifts In Kind

- Newspaper Adoption Ads ----- Karyn Lookabill
- Photography ----- John Payne, John S. Payne Photography
- Website ----- Holly Berry & Rusty Proffitt
- Newsletter, cat rocks, face painting ----- Leila McMichael
- Copying, collating, etc. ----- Margaret Causby and the First United Methodist Church of Morganton, NC
- Printer ----- Burke Equipment
- Advertising ----- Burke County Chamber of Commerce; Carolina Ribbon Crafts; Karyn Lookabill; *Hickory Daily Record*; *IWANNA*; Hickory Community Theatre; John S. Payne Photography; *Morganton News Herald*; Pet O'Mine; Outlook @ *Newton Observer News Enterprise*
- Fundraising ----- Jeannie & Megan Bowman; Linda Collins; Stacy Costner; Beverly Hyatt; Mike & Betty Jackson; Nancy & Bill Jones; Lisa & Lynda Garibaldi; June Robison; Karyn & Tony Lookabill; Leila McMichael; Barbara & Danny Power; Sam's Club

Animal Cruelty and Domestic Abuse: How *Cats' Cradle* Is Making A Difference

By June Robison

A few months ago, I received a phone call about an injured cat. Because of my involvement with *Cats' Cradle*, they called to tell me about a cat in the neighborhood that was shot by its own owner. The kind soul on the phone also proceeded to tell me about the owner's own confession to the act and how he bragged about "finishing the job" if it ever came back to his home. Fearing for the cat's life, this compassionate person called to see if I could help the cat. The good news was that the cat was located, although hiding in the neighborhood, and I was able to bring him into my home for the night, and my kind husband took him to a local vet for a medical exam and care the following morning. The bad news was that the cat suffered from a broken leg bone, had metal shrapnel embedded in his foot, injuries to his face, and a hole in his neck from a pellet gun. According to the caller and two other witnesses who also heard the owner bragging, the man tried to shoot the cat in the head in his fenced in backyard, but the cat escaped. His reasoning was that the cat scratched his daughter's face. According to a witness, the three year old daughter was playing with the cat in the backyard. As cats typically do, the cat laid on his back and played with the little girl's long hair as she leaned over to play with him. During this interaction, he apparently reached up to grab the girl's hair, but instead, scratched her face. Infuriated, the owner decided he would eliminate the cat.

After bringing the cat to my home, I could not help but notice how sweet he was. Bundling him in a sheet, he purred as I held and caressed him. Even when I poked and prodded to determine his injuries, he never once showed any aggression, and even fell asleep in my arms. After his examination and report from the vet, as required by Catawba County residents, I contacted Animal Control in Catawba County to notify them of this cat's condition and the owner's alleged crime. Sadly, from fear of retaliation, the witnesses were not willing to testify, and thus, the agency's hands were tied in pursuing this case. They were able to earmark this incident and the man's name and address, though, for future reference.

I have been very troubled over this man's reasoning and reaction, along with his lack of remorse and his haughty attitude about the entire event. This man's family, the people in his neighborhood and the community need to be concerned too. Many studies have been conducted that show how animal cruelty ties in with other violence, namely domestic violence, although some animal abusers have gone on to commit hideous crimes against people such as Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold who killed 12 classmates and themselves at Columbine High School. The FBI has also long recognized the connection that most serial killers have killed or tortured animals in their past. FBI Supervisory Special Agent Allen Brantley has been quoted as saying, "Animal Cruelty ...is not a harmless venting of emotion in a healthy individual; this is a warning sign..." Anytime animal abuse occurs, red flags should be thrown up. April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month and also as Preventing Animal Cruelty Month. Is that a coincidence? In North Carolina, alone, 37 children died from child abuse homicide in 2005. Knowing the correlation of animal cruelty and people related violence, it is a wonder as to how many of these cases might have been prevented with early intervention.

The volunteers with *Cats' Cradle* work tirelessly to not only make this world a better world for animals, but for people as well. Among other services, we work to rescue the injured and homeless cats, as well as teach kindness and respect for animals, because we know that by doing so, we are helping to instill love and respect for all living beings. Although *Cats' Cradle* was not able to take the cat's abuser to court, we were able to rescue Frosty and provide veterinary care for him, neuter and vaccinate him, comfort and provide a loving, temporary foster home for him as he healed from his physical and emotional

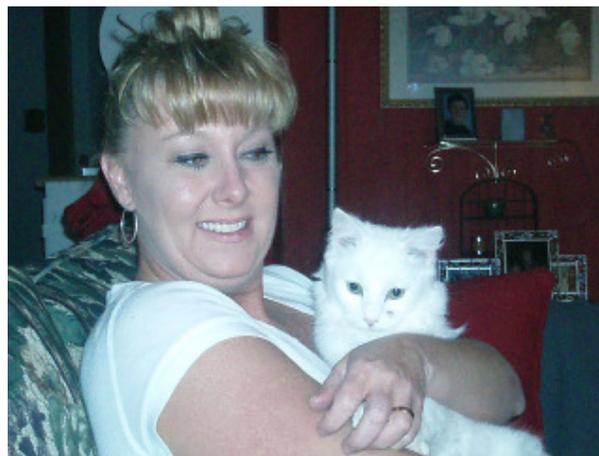
wounds, and find him a family who will love and give him the forever home that he and all animals want and deserve. Through the telling of Frosty's story, we are also hoping that courageous souls will reach out to the abused animals they are aware of and report it to the authorities, and by doing so, perhaps save an animal's life and possibly a human being, as well. Even though the person who initially reported Frosty's abuse wanted to remain anonymous, it was because of this brave person that Frosty was given a second chance for a loving home. Though the abuser may have seemed to have gotten away with his crime, this act has been reported and recorded with the authorities for future reference. It is also the desire of *Cats' Cradle*, that, if any reader's heart has been prodded to make a difference for the cats in this area, that they volunteer to be a solution to the many problems abused and homeless felines face. *Cats' Cradle* welcomes your help! Join us in making a difference for the animals and people of our communities.

For more information on animal cruelty and the correlation to other crimes, please visit:

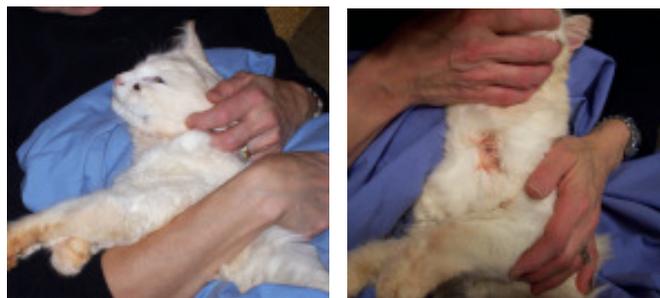
<http://www.aspc.org> and click on "fight cruelty" on the sidebar
<http://hsus.org/ace/15857>
http://www.vachss.com/guest_dispatches/ascione_2.html
<http://www.pet-abuse.com/> and click on
"animal cruelty," "abuse connection," and "prevent abuse"

For information on the area's animal control agencies and animal cruelty, please visit:

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/es/animal.asp> and click on
"cruelty investigation"
<http://www.burkesherriff.org/animal.htm>
<http://www.co.caldwell.nc.us/depart/animal/cruelty.html>



Frosty looking very happy in his new home with the Simerlys



A wounded Frosty being cared for by June Robison.

Commercial Pet Food May Be Killing Your Pet

By Lynda Garibaldi, *Cats' Cradle*

The recent pet food recalls have people wondering whether or not any of the commercially produced pet foods are safe for pets. The outcry reminded me of a book I read a few years ago titled *Food Pets Die For: Shocking Facts about Pet Food.*, by Ann Martin. It also led me to the FDA website, where you can find a multitude of articles about pet food recalls dating back a few years. Just a few articles on this site:

Feb 13, 2007: "FDA Warns Consumers Not To Use Wild Kitty Cat Food Due To Salmonella Contamination."

Dec 21, 2005: "Diamond Pet Food Recalled at a facility in Gaston, South Carolina."

June 8, 2005: "T.W. Enterprises of Ferndale, Washington, alerts consumers certain dog and cat treats are being recalled because they are infected with salmonella."

May 26, 2003: FDA recalled pet food when it learned "rendered material from a Canadian cow that tested positive last week for *bovine spongiform encephalopathy* (mad cow disease) may have been used to manufacture pet food...."

On Oct 1, 1999: FDA issues Nationwide Health Advisory because dog chew products made from pork or beef-derived materials "may pose a risk of bacterial infections such as *salmonella infantis*, which can cause flu-like symptoms in normally healthy PEOPLE." This, just from handling the chews. Imagine what eating the chews does to dogs!

After observing her dogs throw up repeatedly after eating commercial dog food, then seeing one of them DIE soon after eating, Ann Martin started asking questions and compiling data on pet food. Her seven years of research resulted in the 1997 publication of the book, *Food Pets Die For: Shocking Facts about Pet Food.*

Martin's research reveals great differences between what we think we are buying and what we are actually getting when we buy pet food, even the most highly respected brands. Pet food provides a market for slaughterhouse throwaways and grains for human consumption. This waste includes intestines, udders, esophagi, blood, ligaments, bones, and other parts not fit for humans. These "other parts" are listed on pet food labels as "by-products."

Two of the three top ingredients in pet foods, particularly dry foods, are almost always some form of grain products like ground corn, chicken by-product meal, corn gluten meal and the like. Since cats are carnivores, they must eat meat to fulfill certain physiological needs, yet commercial pet food is grain or corn based with very little meat.

The source for pet food is typically a rendering plant. "Rendering" means to process for industrial use, i.e. to render livestock carcasses and extract oil from fat by separating fat-soluble from water-soluble and solid materials. While this may kill some bacterial contaminants, the process may alter or destroy natural enzymes and proteins. Restaurant grease has become a major component of feed grade animal fat, often kept for weeks before it is picked up by rendering companies and mixed with powerful antioxidants to retard further spoilage, then blended into products used by pet food companies.

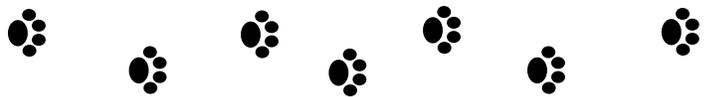
Furthermore, some researchers have suggested dangerous interactions occur among some of the common synthetic preservatives. Many chemicals are added to improve taste or appearance, while other

additives add color or flavor to make the food more palatable. Potentially cancer-causing agents are permitted at relatively low levels and use of these chemicals in pet foods has not been thoroughly studied.

Even more shocking, research reveals that diseased and cancerous animal parts are used as a source for pet food, including euthanized companion animals. If that were not bad enough, studies question whether cooking methods used by pet food manufacturers destroy hormones used to fatten livestock or increase milk production or drugs such as antibiotics or barbiturates used to euthanize animals. Martin and others, among them veterinarians, claim there is little to no regulation in the pet food industry.

Feeding such products is killing our companion animals. While many veterinarians have not made a connection over-processed, chemical-laden pet food and illness after illness and short lives for pets, other veterinarians claim that feeding slaughterhouse wastes to animals increases their risk of getting cancer and other degenerative diseases. In short, the food our pets eat is cutting their lives short by several years.

The question is, what do we feed our companion animals? Martin decided to cook for her pets and includes a few recipes in her book. But if you don't cook for your pets, what do you feed them? Look for pet food that includes only human grade products, and is fresh, natural and wholesome. Higher quality pet food costs quite a bit more, but isn't your pet's life worth it?



Formula for Infant Cats and Other Animals

For those people who find baby kitties, I must warn you that raising them on the bottle is *not* for the faint of heart, and is better left to the professionals . . . mama cats. But if this is not an option, then the formula I use is as follows:

1 12 oz. can evaporated milk
1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon Karo syrup

Mix well and refrigerate, and warm as needed. If you have some pediatric liquid vitamins you can add a few drops. The good thing is that you can adjust the formula as needed. If kittens have diarrhea, reduce the amount of Karo syrup. If constipated, use a few drops more.

This is a great formula because the ingredients are easy to keep. In fact, I don't remember ever getting any babies in need when I could get to a vet's to get the canned formula!

Also be sure to keep the babies, regardless of species, nice and warm. They do not have the ability to adjust their own temperature, but be *careful* of heating pads. If used, make sure that the babies have a way to get off of it if they need to.

Cats' Cradle

Donation Form

(All donations are tax deductible)

Please print and mail to: Cats' Cradle, 112 Clark Street, Morganton, NC 28655

Please add me to your membership

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior - (\$10.00 Yearly Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - (\$251.00 - \$500.00 Yearly Membership) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - (\$25.00 Yearly Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - (\$501.00 - \$1000.00 Yearly Membership) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family - (\$50.00 Yearly Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - (\$1001.00+ Yearly Membership) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - (\$100.00 - \$250.00 Yearly Membership) | |

I have already paid my tax-deductible membership dues for the year,
I am enclosing an Extra tax-deductible donation of:

- \$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

I am making a monthly tax-deductible pledge to support the cats!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 (\$60.00 Per Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 (\$600.00 Per Year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 (\$120.00 Per Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 (\$1,200.00 Per Year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 (\$300.00 Per Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

I simply want to donate (tax-deductible) to support the cats!

- \$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

I want to contribute to "JERRY'S FUND" in the amount of:

- \$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

I want to contribute to the BUILDING FUND in the amount of:

- \$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

I want to learn more about what I can do to help Cats' Cradle as a volunteer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable & mail to: Cats' Cradle, 112 Clark Street, Morganton, NC 28655

Thank You, For Your Support!

Rescued!

On Saturday, April 14th, some kind soul brought a striped, gray tabby, approximately 5-week-old kitten they had found screaming in the bushes near their driveway into the PetSmart store and straight to the *Cats' Cradle* booth.

Named "Lucky" initially, **April** was treated immediately by June Robison and Nancy Jones and later sent to Diana Rath for fostering. She's doing very well! Read about Diana on page 3.



Nancy Jones and June Robison administered life-saving fluids to April as quickly as they could.

POETRY

Nancy Jones is one of our adoption volunteers. Here are some of her poems and haiku about cats.

I am a beautiful tabby
My home is quiet, safe -- a wonderful place
I like my catfood bowl to be full

Haiku by Nancy

A paw reaches out
To capture my attention
My bad day improves

Joy in the moment
All creation here for fun
Cat philosophy

Fishbowl on table
Whiskers, tail, huge eyes below
Opportunity

Kissing a calico
Stroking his fur
Pure Heaven

Live boldly
Climb Pounce Leap Meow
then sleep

My sleek gray feline
mad at life
hissed

Soft and warm
curious and frisky
mischievous and cunning
pray for the bird and mouse

She could hunt like crazy
pounce swat scratch nip
Now she stalks the sofa
and chases her tail

Talk to me
Of who you are
Let that purr mean
You feel affection

***Cats' Cradle Yard Sale This Summer --
Start Setting Aside Your Items To Donate Now!***



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Morganton, NC 28655
828-433-4925*

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