

# The Feline Forum

June/July 2009



CARING FOR HOMELESS CATS SINCE 1945

## Color Me Beautiful & Share Your Memories Of Cat Welfare

This year celebrates the ten year anniversary of our shelter moving into our current building located at 741 Wetmore Road. We will be celebrating this milestone with two fun filled events.

On Friday, July 17 from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. we will be holding Color Me Beautiful. Stop by the shelter and help us complete a whimsical paint by number mural on our building. There will be food, music, and children's activities during the event.

While our eyes are always on the future and we continue to evolve to make Cat Welfare the best it can be, this year is an opportunity to look back and share memories and reflect on what we as an organization have accomplished in the last decade for the felines of our shelter and central Ohio.

### Evening Hours Return

Evening hours are back at Cat Welfare! The shelter is now open every Wednesday until 7:00 p.m. so please stop by to visit our feline friends. The first Wednesday of the month hours are limited to 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. All other Wednesdays the shelter is open from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

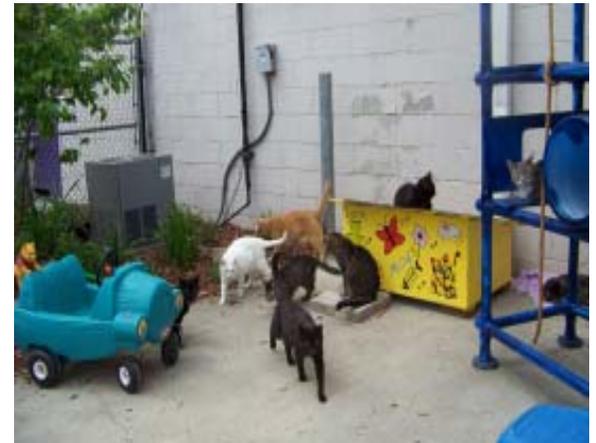
Our feline friends love visitors so stop by on your way home from work or after dinner to give our kitties some extra attention. They'll be sure to thank you for it. Looking to adopt? Adoptions are also possible during our evening hours. 

A celebration will also be held to honor Cat Welfare's ten years in our current facility during National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week in early November. We are asking you, our donors, volunteers, and adopters, to make the event most memorable. Please, share your favorite Cat Welfare memory. Have a memory of a favorite Cat Welfare resident, event, or something you'd like to share? Please, submit your memory to the shelter or email it to [teamcatwelfare@gmail.com](mailto:teamcatwelfare@gmail.com). Memories are not limited to text. Photos, drawings, paintings, and all creative memories are most welcome. Look for more information on the celebration in future newsletters.

### Annual Membership Meeting

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our annual membership meeting on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Karl Road branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library located at 5590 Karl Road.

Cat first aid will be one of the topics discussed by our special guest, the Columbus Division of the Red Cross. For more information, please see the Direct Connect article on page 2 of this issue of the Feline Forum. We hope to see you there! 



Be sure to stop by the shelter and check out our latest improvement to benefit our cats - our outdoor cat enclosure. See the above photo for some of our shelter kitties enjoying some exercise and the fresh air from the safety of the enclosure. 

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, July 11, 2009 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Black Tail Event: A Black Cat Awareness Event - Fly-By-Night store (see article on page 6)**

**Friday, July 17, 2009 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Color Me Beautiful mural project - Cat Welfare (see article this page)**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2009 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Annual Membership Meeting - Columbus Metropolitan Library Karl Road branch (see article on page 2)**

*Visit our online events calendar at [www.catwelfareohio.com](http://www.catwelfareohio.com) for all event dates and for off-site adoption events during June and July at PetPeople and Moochie & Co. stores.*

## Our Mission



*Cat Welfare Association is dedicated to the care of and education about cats and kittens. Our pledge is to cherish, nurture and provide veterinary care for homeless, abused, injured and abandoned felines. We strive to find each cat an appropriate, safe and loving home, allowing those not placed to live their lives in the care and comfort of our shelter.*

**741 Wetmore Road  
Columbus, OH 43214  
(614) 268-6096  
www.catwelfareohio.com**

The shelter is open seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (1st Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., other Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).

Adoption fee of \$60 for adult cats and \$70 for kittens includes spay/neuter surgery, initial vaccinations including rabies, testing for feline leukemia and FIV (adults), microchip identification, flea treatment & deworming.

The shelter has established an Altering Fund to subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for cat owners with limited incomes. Contact 268-6096 for an application.



### Current Board of Directors

Steve Hebenstreit, President  
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Sheila Zirkle, Vice President  
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Kathryn Hart • Sharon Hebenstreit  
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Mary Jane Ryan • Peg Wentz  
Jill Lee, Executive Director

## Direct Connect

Happy spring and summer! Although spring begins the busiest season at Cat Welfare Association with the onslaught of kittens, it also is a very exciting time with wonderful events showcasing our favorite felines!

Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and employees who worked tirelessly to make this year's open house such a huge success! Special thanks to all of our guests who came out to support our mission and our kitties! Of course, thanks goes to all of our kitty artists who gave their time and talent to create the unique art pieces that many of you purchased as treasured souvenirs! Although a bit windy, we all enjoyed a sunny day filled with delicious food, entertaining music, Catique browsing, cat spoiling, and great company! Congratulations to Mark and Carol Van Swearingen for winning the beautiful quilt this year! The quilt raffle raised just over \$1,800 for our shelter this year. Much gratitude to Sharon Warrington and Elizabeth Bowling for creating and donating the quilt.

Please, mark your calendar for our annual membership meeting to be held August 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Karl Road branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library located at 5590 Karl Road. The Columbus Division of the Red Cross will be discussing the very important topic of cat first aid. The presentation will focus on knowing your healthy cat and understanding your un-healthy cat. We will discuss common household emergencies including what to do when your cat is no longer breathing, has a severe wound, or has no pulse. The presentation will conclude with a focus on disaster preparedness with your cat in mind. We will discuss the

need for everyone to be prepared in case you need to evacuate your home quickly and how to care for your cat during that type of environment. Refreshments will be served and Red Cross Cat First Aid books will be available for purchase. We hope that you will join us for an informative and fun evening!

Puttytats and Popcorn???

Beginning in June, come join in the fun of movie watching and popcorn munching with our feline friends! We will be featuring a different movie each Wednesday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. June's line-up is:

June 3 - The Aristocats  
June 10 - Garfield, The Movie  
June 17 - Hotel for Dogs  
June 24 - Doctor Dolittle

Lastly, please help us spread the importance of spaying and neutering. Our policy at Cat Welfare is to tell the truth. Our goal is to change the truth we have to tell.

*Direct Connect article by Jill Lee, Executive Director of the Cat Welfare Association*

In the photo below Leah meets Logan. Logan created the paw print art Leah's Grandma purchased for her at our seventh annual open house.



## Willard's Village Babies Fund

The Willard's Village Babies Fund has been established to help feral cats and their advocates through free spaying & neutering, loaning out humane traps, and providing food for colonies.

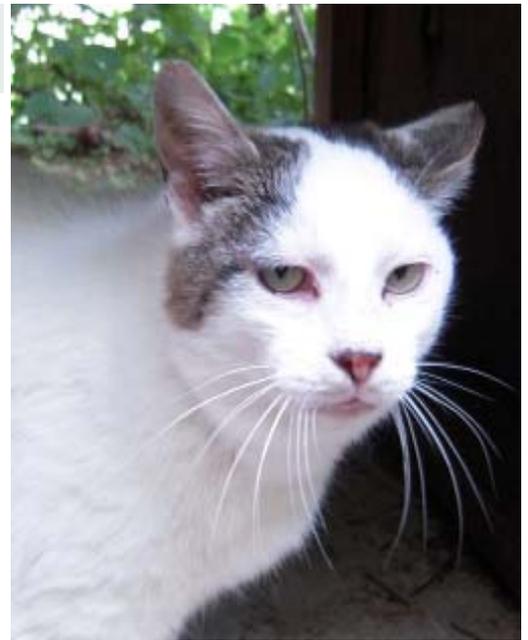
This fund was set up in memory of a special colony cat named Willard (see photo to the right) that was helped by Cat Welfare. Willard was first seen in an established feral cat colony in 2004. He was more social than the cats that had been living in the colony for several years but was still standoffish. After being trapped and neutered, Willard lived at Cat Welfare for several months to see if he could be tamed and eventually put up for adoption. After several months in the shelter and some incidents with nipping, he was re-released into the colony in February 2005.

Willard did well living in the little village of houses that colony caretakers had made for the cats and enjoyed life with his four female companions. Over the years, Willard became friendlier with his caretakers and eventually became close enough

with two to allow them to pet and also cuddle him while he stayed away from other people. Willard also did a great job of being "security guard" and protecting his colony and village the few times someone wandered upon their hidden and secluded village.

In November 2007, the colony lost one member due to health reasons. Sadly, in early 2009, after braving the harsh winter weather, Willard's favorite feline had to be euthanized due to illness. Shortly thereafter, another was not seen again after kids were seen in the area with pellet guns. On April 14, 2009, Willard and the one other remaining cat were tormented by unknown assailants, their houses blocked so they could not hide in them, and tragically Willard was killed.

Willard's presence is greatly missed by all who knew him and by the one surviving cat, Blue. After a week of failed attempts, Blue was successfully trapped and is currently trying to adjust to being an inside cat after at least 8 years of living outside.



The Willard's Village Babies Fund was established to honor and remember Willard, while providing support to those special individuals who devote time and resources to altering feral cats to help minimize the cat overpopulation problem, as well as working to keep those cats healthy and living in a good environment. To learn more about Willard and the other village babies and to see photos of them in happier times, please visit our website and click on Fund Info on the index tab.



## Purina Weight Circles Needed

Cat Welfare is collecting Purina Weight Circles as a way to offset the great expense of feeding nearly 300 cats on a daily basis. Please, drop off or mail your weight circles in and help us feed our furry friends.

Participating Purina brands include the following products:

Purina Pro Plan (adult and kitten), Purina ONE (adult and kitten), Purina Cat Chow, Purina Kitten Chow, Purina Veterinary Diets Feline Formulas, Kit 'N Kaboodle, Happy Cat, and Tender Vittles.

Any other Purina dry cat food brands (including Friskies), canned

cat food, or cat treats are not eligible for this program.

The weight circles are about the size of a quarter and are not the same as the UPC code. Most bags of dry cat food have the weight circles on the top left hand side of the bag but you may need to check the bag to see if it is located elsewhere. The weight circles are worth points depending on the brand and size of the bag and the points can add up fast for Cat Welfare... so remember us before you toss the bag as each weight circle can be a great help and make a difference in our collection drive.



## Kroger Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? Register your Kroger Plus card at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and select Cat Welfare as your Community Rewards organization. Cat Welfare will then receive a percentage of your sales when you use your Kroger Plus card! To confirm Cat Welfare is your designated organization, view your My Account information and make sure you see our name under Community Rewards on your account. If you use your phone number at the register instead of a Plus card, then please call 1-877-576-7587 to enroll in the program.



# Happy Homes for CWA Cats



Harry (photo left) was adopted by the Reese family. "I just wanted to say thank you for all of the amazing work you do and devotion you give to the rescued animals in your care. I adopted Oliver, a very handsome black and white tuxedo, on August 26, 2007 and have fallen head over heels for him. We decided to rename him Harry because he has a white streak between his eyes that looks like a famous "lightning bolt scar". Harry was literally the last cat I saw before getting ready to leave for the day to "sleep on" my final decision. I noticed that one of the cages on the walls was empty and the name tag said Oliver and that he was already declawed. As we were turning to leave, I happened to see a beefy ball of fluff plop down at my feet. The cat's collar said his name was Oliver. Needless to say, I picked him up and decided the fates had caused our lives to intertwine that day. Harry has truly been a blessing and continues to

brighten our days and bring new light to our small apartment. He is the first cat I've met that is not fazed by catnip, turns his nose up at toys but loves to play with a 10 cent piece of string, chews on pens, and plays hide and seek. We still can't figure why his first family had given him up - he has never had an accident, doesn't eat "people food" or beg, is extremely friendly, well-behaved and tolerant (you can pet him everywhere)! He keeps us company as we study, enjoys lying by the heater on his oversized pillow, comes running as soon as we get home from work, and greets us every morning when the alarm goes off. He is also very intelligent and knows how to sit, jump, and come. His affection is endless and he freely gives kisses, eye blinks, kneading, and loud purrs to anyone who will pet him. He really is a prince. Thank you again for taking care of this amazing creature, he certainly has found his forever home."

Sweet Pea (photo right) lives with the Zitko family.

"I thought you might like to see Sweet Pea, who I adopted from Cat Welfare a little more than 11 years ago. She was #18296 back then, a little gray & white female sitting in a cage in a corner. I took one look at her and fell in love! She has been the most wonderful companion I could ever have found. She's funny and sweet and playful and has given me so much joy and amusement. I just had to write and thank you for all you do for abandoned felines who otherwise might never find loving homes. I've thanked you a thousand times these



past 11 years when I'm playing with Sweet Pea or when she's asleep on my lap or watching birds from our screened porch. (Or begging for a kitty treat or lying across the desk when I'm trying to do paperwork!!) If it weren't for you and your good work, I'd never have found her. I hope you enjoy seeing Sweet Pea! Thank you!"



# Happy Homes for CWA Cats

Ernie (photo right, left cat) lives with the Mohr family. “Ernie is giving a “thumbs up” to his new home in Westerville. Formerly known as Thumbs at Cat Welfare, he found his forever home largely due to what he was named for. A polydactyl cat like those of Ernest Hemingway’s Key West home fame, he has rather large thumbs on both front paws. While visiting with the available cats at the shelter, Thumbs brushed up against Laura and meowed to get her attention. She picked him up, found him to be quite friendly, and then noticed the thumbs. After meeting the rest of the family and everyone agreeing they had an interest in the orange and white fellow, they were stunned at the irony to find out his shelter name was Thumbs - while Laura stood there with a huge bandaged thumb. It somehow seemed like a sign that he was meant to be with them. Ernie was named after the famous Hemingway author and is getting along very well with his new playmate, Butterfly, also an orange tabby.”



Melena (photo left) was adopted by the Berliner family. “I adopted Melena in May 2008 and it was the best thing I have ever done. She is so playful and loving to everyone she meets. When I came into Cat Welfare, I wasn’t looking to adopt but she chose me! Her favorite things to do are play fetch and nap in my laundry.”

*Thank you to everyone who has adopted a cat from Cat Welfare!*

Send your “Happy Homes” photo(s) and short story (200 words or less if possible) to the editor at “Happy Homes” c/o Cat Welfare; 741 Wetmore Road; Columbus, OH 43214, or online at [catwelfarecats@yahoo.com](mailto:catwelfarecats@yahoo.com). View these and many more “Happy Homes” stories on our web site: [www.catwelfareohio.com](http://www.catwelfareohio.com).



# Happy Homes for CWA Cats



Butters (photo left) was adopted by the Miranti family. "A few years ago, I came to Cat Welfare looking for a cat. I visited many times, and different cats came up to me each time, with one exception -- Butters. Butters always greeted me, even wanting to be pet while everyone else was chowing down on the freshly delivered canned food. He was shy, but really liked to be scratched under his chin. He'd apparently been at the shelter for over two years, and I decided that was far too long -- he was coming home with me. When I took him home though, he had a little trouble adjusting. He was terrified of this new, quiet, empty space -- not filled with dozens of other cats. He spent most of his time behind my bed -- still willing to be petted, but needing that shelter just the

same. Now? Now, people are shocked to hear that Butters used to be shy. He's a huge social butterfly -- whenever I invite a bunch of friends over, he loves to sit in the middle of everything. He adores when people rub him, offering up his belly to anyone willing to pet it. Even if people are just standing and talking, he wants to be there, part of the group. In one notable example, he was sitting in the midst of three people talking. They shifted, so Butters was no longer in the middle -- and moments later, he followed, planting himself right in the center again! This boy loves attention, and I -- and everyone else he meets -- love giving it to him!"

Dore (photo right) lives with the Baldwin family. "I wanted to share with you the cat my partner and I adopted last year. Her name is Dore and she lives with two other loving cats and four dogs in our home. She is very playful and loving. She loves to cuddle and attack her toy bird."



## Black Tail Event

Join us for the Black Tail Event - A Black Cat Awareness event hosted by Cat Welfare and Fly-By-Night. The event will be held on Saturday, July 11 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Fly-By-Night store located at 4145 N. High Street in Columbus. Come in to meet adoptable black cats and kittens from Cat Welfare. Learn black cat lore and play black cat trivia. Did you know that in Asia and the United Kingdom a black cat is considered lucky? Be sure to shop the unique collection of cat related items that Fly-By-Night has to offer.



## Voting & Entry Deadline Approaches

Have you been meaning to mail in or upload a photo of your cat for our 2010 cat calendar contest? Be sure to do so before Tuesday, June 30 - the deadline for entries to be received. Don't have a photo you want to submit but want to support the project? Then be sure to log on to [www.catwelfareohio.com/calendar.htm](http://www.catwelfareohio.com/calendar.htm) before Friday, July 10 and click on the link to vote. You can view all the wonderful entries and vote for your favorites! The photos with the most votes will be in the finals for the cover and 12 monthly featured cat photos.



## Ishie Memorial Fund

*for care of long-term shelter residents*

Kathlyn Heywood "In memory of Marilyn Dull"  
Catherine Zitko "From Sweet Pea"  
Janet Vogt "Mollie – best Cat Welfare cat ever!"  
Valeria Dresbach "In memory of Don W. England"  
Charles Babcock  
Debra & Lee Martin "In memory of Claudia"  
Anne Riley "In memory of Abby"  
Elsie & Paul Blei "In loving memory of IO, Three Cat,  
and Arrakis"  
Sue Lape "For Gordon Wilson"  
Debra & Lee Martin "In memory of our precious Lucy.  
Also, special thanks to the compassionate staff at  
Med Vet for helping us through our loss."  
Barbara Moseley "For all of them that suffered"  
Beth Puleo "In loving memory of Mister Man Puleo  
4-26-09"  
Penny Popper "In memory of D'Annunzio"  
Pamela Huggins  
James & Mary Criswell "Millie, Toby, & Mitten"  
Debra & Lee Martin "In memory of Aunt Theora Johnson.  
Her kitties were very special to her."

## Altering Fund

*to subsidize low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for cats of  
low-income families*

Margaret Lelko, Edward & Jeri Arent, Larry & Elaine  
Perkins, Elsie & Paul Blei, Patricia Eiben, Betty Walker,  
Mary Jane Ryan, and Bonnie Lucas

## Cat-A-Lack Chow Club

*for food for the shelter kitties*

Jillian Heatwole, Nellie Russell, Mary Hibbs, Owen Elise  
Pollack, Joyce & Ed Weiler, Dorothy Rowland, Kay  
Watson, and Bob & Marie Hlavin

## Vincent Fund

*for emergency care for shelter cats*

Janice Ossa, Elsie & Paul Blei, Patricia Eiben, Dorothy  
Cobbs, James & Mary Criswell, Regina Brown, Nicole  
Trimner, Natalie Geuy, Anna Teichmoeller, Fred & Gail  
Taschner, Nancy Hile, Lisa Orahoad, Jill Firestone,  
Debbie Shaffer, and Karen Smith

## Joey's Good Samaritan Fund

*financial assistance for owned cats in need of medical care*

Nicole Moin, Emily Wilson, Kristen Wood, Amanda  
Davis, Sue Godsey, Kathryn Hart, Lynne Bonenberger, and  
Robert & Barbara Hinkle

## Special Thanks

Thank you to the Grandview Heights Cat Club (Siri & Gia  
Petersen, Ashley Wright, and Emma Harrison) for  
canvassing for donations for Cat Welfare every Saturday  
morning and then bringing in the donations and visiting our  
felines. Special thanks also to Maia Talarico and Emma &  
Virginia Haupt who asked people to give them food, toys,  
and supplies for the kitties instead of birthday presents for  
themselves.

## Important Shelter Information

From January through April 2009, we **adopted 285 cats**  
into loving homes and **subsidized 716 spay and neuter  
surgeries** through our various Altering Fund programs.

**Interested in volunteering** for Cat Welfare? Call or mail  
your name and contact information to the shelter, or send a  
message to Gail Harbert, volunteer coordinator, at  
cwavolunteers@gmail.com.

### Catque Corner:

The "Catique" (aka garage sale) is in need of clean, gently  
used items for resale. This includes (but is not limited to)  
clothing (in season), books, housewares, collectibles,  
linens, and gift items. Unfortunately, we are unable to  
accept computers, appliances, mattresses, exercise  
equipment, large pieces of furniture, or other large, heavy  
items. We are also always looking for friendly faces to

volunteer and new customers to discover our hidden  
treasures. In season clothing, trinkets, knickknacks,  
kitchenwares, and gardening supplies/accessories/  
decorations are sold quickly at the Catique. The Catique  
can take the hassle out of holding your own garage sale and  
your donations earn much needed funds for the shelter cats.  
Tax donation receipts are provided upon request.

### Shelter Wish List:

KMR (kitten milk replacement), Kitten Chow, dry cat food,  
moist cat food, brown paper grocery bags, Windex, clean  
newspapers, clean towels, clay litter, dryer sheets, bleach,  
liquid dishwashing soap, instant hand sanitizer, Clorox  
wipes, Mr. Clean Magic Eraser pads, laundry detergent,  
stainless steel Chore Boy scrubbers, and Mr. Clean with  
Febreze.



*We make friendships  
for life!*

**Emmy** - Greetings from the Cat Welfare kitchen!! My name is Emmy, and I'm CWA's "behind-the-scenes" supervisor cat. Our shelter has the best beds and yummy yummy food. I should know because that's my job. I manage these vital areas of day-to-day life here at Cat Welfare. Step on in to my office, back in the kitchen/laundry room. I'm the beautiful lady found on top of the fridge, or in a nest on the counter. You won't find me on the floor; I do all of my best supervising from on high. And what exactly do I do all day? So many things.

For example, as head laundress, I have to be on hand to test the softness of each and every load of laundry right as it comes out of the dryer. Our staff neatly folds it and waits while I lie on it myself. I also happen to be the official taste-tester in our kitchen. I need to be sure what is fresh and delicious. But lately, I've been thinking about a change of venue. I've been working at CWA for eighteen months now, and I think it's time I put my considerable skills to work at a new location. So if anyone has a need for an official supervisor, I'll be your cat! Come interview with me in the kitchen. Be sure to pick me up so you can whisper right into my ear. I love being held. Ideally, I'd like to work in a quieter environment, but I have great people (and kitty) skills, so having roommates isn't a problem. Could your laundry need some testing? Perhaps your food? Then please stop by and see me, I've been waiting to work with you for a long time.

**Visit other Special Adoptions cats online at [www.catwelfareohio.com](http://www.catwelfareohio.com).**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Incorporated Under Law: As a non-profit, charitable organization

**Columbus, OH 43214**  
**741 Wetmore Road**



June/July 2009

**The Feline Forum**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLUMBUS OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 407