

# Feline Forum

Cat Welfare Association Newsletter

February/March 2020

## Celebrating 75 Years: Looking at Our Past

In 2020 we're celebrating 75 years of caring for Columbus area cats. This story is the first in a series of three that will look back at our history, celebrate the present and look forward to our future:

*Cat Welfare started in 1945 with a small group of seven Clintonville residents concerned about the ever-growing population of stray cats and kittens in the area. Their original intent was to provide a safe haven for homeless felines who were being overlooked at other area animal shelters. The group devised a formal constitution that included in its purpose the better care, education and understanding of cats and kittens in Central Ohio. Founders of the organization included Mrs. Virginia Kunkler and John Newton.*

*Stray cats and kittens originally were kept in foster homes until permanent homes were found. Adoptions were handled through a telephone network operated by diligent volunteers. In 1953 Cat Welfare finally erected a small building to house the stray cats behind the Beechwold Animal Hospital on land purchased from Dr. Bruce Wenger. This served as the first facility after the organization's incorporation as a nonprofit in 1952.*

*Several additions were made to the original shelter over the years. In 1968 a garage was added to the property to house the shelter's weekly garage sale. Though now located offsite at The Cat-ique, the sale continues to this day as one of Cat Welfare's largest, ongoing fundraising projects.*

*Moving beyond the adoption of stray felines, shelter leaders progressively addressed the overpopulation issue. In 1972 an Altering Fund was established to provide financial assistance to owners of cats for needed spay and neuter surgery. Kittens and cats adopted at the shelter were also altered as a part of the adoption fee starting in 1978.*

*In 1999, Cat Welfare made its last move to the current building, just south of the original shelter. The 5,600-square-foot building houses separate intake, adoption, isolation and recovery rooms. An all-season sunroom was added to the building in 2001. In 2012, roaming space was expanded with a security fence along the east side of the shelter to allow shelter cats to enjoy the outdoors year-round. And 2013 saw cat walks installed in the placement rooms to allow kitties to go onward and upward with more places to explore.*

## Wear Your 75th Anniversary Pride

These special edition 75th anniversary shirts are available in sizes XS-XL for \$20, XXL for \$23, tax included. Shipping is just \$5. Stop by the shelter to get yours or order online at [catwelfareassoc.org/merchandise](http://catwelfareassoc.org/merchandise).



WHEN YOU HAD A ROUGH DAY BUT  
ARE TRYING TO STAY POSITIVE

Parsons, who was adopted in 2018, became a widely shared internet meme in 2019.



## For The Love of Our Cats

Daffodil



Saturday,  
February 15  
12 pm - 3 pm



Missy



Buddy

## CWA's Adoption Stats for 2019

1,128 felines were adopted into loving homes, a 9% increase over 2018, including 41 FIV-positive kitties.

Save the Date Volunteer Appreciation Dinner,  
April 19 at L. A. Catering's Event Center

## Our Mission

The 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

[catwelfareassoc.org](http://catwelfareassoc.org)

[facebook.com/catwelfareassoc](https://facebook.com/catwelfareassoc)

## Hours

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday & Sunday

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday

(Closed the first Thursday of each month and all major holidays)

The adoption fee of \$20 (\$10 for senior cats) includes spay/neuter surgery, initial vaccinations, testing for feline leukemia and FIV, microchip identification, flea treatment & deworming.



## Board of Directors

President: RoseAnn Ballangee

Vice President: Karen Ramey

Recording Secretary: Brenda Martin

Sue Godsey • Claudia Plumley • Katie Thomas

Treasurer: Judy Vertikoff

# CWA Altering Programs Help Cats Throughout Columbus

An interview by Kitty Stevens

In the 1970s, Cat Welfare began a low-cost altering program to help the community spay and neuter their pets. Shelter staff members Gail Harbert and Nikki Schock discuss the program below:

## Why is spaying and neutering cats so important?

*Nikki Schock:* People don't understand that there are so many bonuses to spaying and neutering their cats. The urine smell is greatly reduced, male cats don't spray as much, and the cats are more relaxed and content being inside.

*Gail Harbert:* Spaying and neutering is how you get a stable outdoor colony.

## Who can apply for the spay/neuter vouchers?

*NS:* These vouchers are for people who are less fortunate. Also, if someone sees a group of cats living in an alley, for example, they can go to Cat Welfare and get vouchers for all of those cats.

## How much is a voucher for your pet cat?

*GH:* It is \$65 for a spay and \$55 for a neuter, including a rabies vaccination and one distemper vaccination. You can find the application at [catwelfareassoc.org/altering](http://catwelfareassoc.org/altering).

## What about for feral cats?

*GH:* There's an application specifically for cats that live on the streets, colony cats and feral cats. It's a \$10 application fee and then \$10 per cat for the surgery and rabies vaccination. All of these cats will have their left ears notched so people know they've been spayed or neutered.

## Is there a limit to how many vouchers a person can get?

*NS:* Not at all, but we do ask people to respect the restrictions of the veterinarians, which are spelled out on the vouchers.

## Is there an expiration date?

*GH:* We want people to be serious about getting this surgery done, so they do expire after 45 days.

## Where can you take the cats to be altered?

*GH:* We partner with high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter clinics like SOS of Ohio and TAHO (The Animal Health Organization), as well as other veterinarians in the community.

## What if someone wants to help a colony of feral cats, but they can't bring them in?

*NS:* There have been times when people have contacted CWA, and I or others have gone out and trapped feral cats when there's a difficult situation. I'd like to start an official trap and release program that would allow me to go out and humanely catch these feral cats and get them spayed and neutered.

## Are there other opportunities to spay/neuter?

*GH:* Typically May through October, we have a mobile unit that comes to Cat Welfare once a month run by Dr. Laura Miller, who performs 30 spays or neuters in one day.

*Please consider donating to our Altering Fund or The Willard's Village Babies Fund to support CWA's ongoing altering assistance programs.*

# CWA Happy Homes

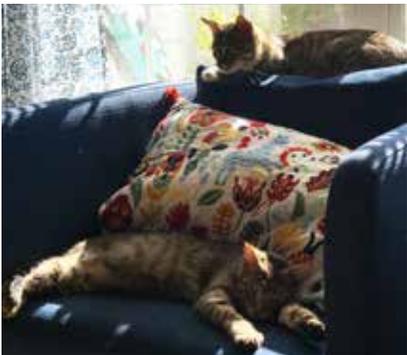


We adopted **Forge** in July 2017. This three-legged orange baby is super talkative and playful. He loves playing with his human baby (our 1-year-old son) and his kitty siblings. Running, climbing and chasing the other cats are his favorite things to do. He is very happy in his "forever" home.

**The Shump Family**

**Narcissa** has been with us since 2017. She loves cuddling with her two brothers, Ollivander and Crookshanks. She also enjoys "catching" toy mice. Every night, she sleeps on her special pillow pet. 'Cissa is a sweet and sniffly girl.

**Chelsey**



I came to Cat Welfare to adopt one cat and then met **Lily & Luna**. They were in neighboring cages, and I just couldn't pick one over the other. Once they were introduced at home, they were instant playmates. They enjoy bird watching, napping and late night roller derby sessions. They're incredibly

playful and always looking for affection (and treats). I'm so glad to have them both.

**Cara**

We adopted **Rumble** in 2017, and he has been just the best cat. So loving and affectionate!

**Ruth & Anthony Hall**



**Gray & Poupon** are my foster fails that came to CWA at 5 weeks old. I guess there's something to be said about raising an animal from a baby because these two are the sweetest and most loving cats I've ever owned. They love to play with each other, and I really wasn't in the market to adopt them, but I so desperately wanted to see them stay together. Thank you, Cat Welfare, for taking such good care of me and my babies!

**Bodie & Stefanie Truitt**



**Rose** brings a lot of joy to her puppy brother. She loves head rubs, hiding in the bathtub, and she truly thinks she is queen of the house. She has brought such happiness to our family.

**Ashley & Eric**

Got a Happy Homes story? Upload it at [catwelfareassoc.org/share-your-happy-home-story](http://catwelfareassoc.org/share-your-happy-home-story) or mail it to Cat Welfare, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

## Vincent Fund Gives Cat the Gift of Sight

## Fund Spotlight



Surgery to correct his eyelids gave Hemingway his sight.

Hemingway is a love bug who can't ever get close enough to people to satisfy his need for attention. He came into the shelter with swollen cheeks and closed eyes due to a condition called entropion, which caused his eyelashes to curl inward. The problem is common in unneutered, stray male cats.

Dr. Evans, the ophthalmology specialist at Knapp's Veterinary Hospital, recommended Hemingway be neutered and given time for his cheek swelling to dissipate before he had the reconstructive surgery needed to restore his sight. The surgery finally took place in January 2020, and he's happily exploring his surroundings and making new friends (both human and feline).

*Your generous donations to the Vincent Fund allow us to care for stray cats like Hemingway and help them to find their happily ever after.*

## Celebrate Six Years with a Sale **The CWA Board Needs You!**



We would like to extend sincere gratitude to all of our Catique Resale Shop donors and faithful shoppers. Please join us during our anniversary sale February 13-15. Our celebration includes a 70% off storewide sale with the exclusion of furniture and catnip toys. Refreshments will be served on Saturday.

Do you have extensive knowledge of the shelter, or skills in organizational management, finance, fundraising, marketing, computer technology, cat care, construction or other areas that might be beneficial to Cat Welfare? If you have any of these attributes and want to make a difference, please consider submitting an application to serve as a Board member of Cat Welfare. Board members are required to participate in scheduled meetings, work on committees, raise funds and act as ambassadors for the organization.

Prospective Board members must be Active Members or Life Members for at least two consecutive years immediately preceding the election, with evidence of ongoing involvement with the organization. Members will be elected to fill Board openings at the membership meeting on May 19, 2020. Board members must be at least 18 years of age.

Please download an application at [catwelfareassoc.org](http://catwelfareassoc.org) or contact the shelter to have an application mailed to you. A completed application, accompanied by a resume, should be emailed to [boardresumes@catwelfareassoc.org](mailto:boardresumes@catwelfareassoc.org) or mailed to the shelter, Attn: Helen DeSantis, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214. The deadline for submission is March 13, 2020.

Information about each candidate will be posted on Cat Welfare's website on or about April 27. Please contact the shelter if you would like the candidates' information mailed to you.

## Injured Cat Arrives at CWA, Reunited with Owner Days Later



A Good Samaritan found poor Smokey wandering around outside with an alarming paw deformity or injury. Hoping to get some medical care for the sweet cat, they brought him to Cat Welfare on January 10. We transferred Smokey to Knapp Veterinary Hospital for further evaluation. An educated guess is that Smokey got his paw caught, and his attempt to release himself resulted in the traumatic loss of two toes. Dr. Craven was able to surgically repair the foot so Smokey would be able to walk without discomfort using all four limbs. The vet also noted during the surgery that Smokey had received a perineal urethrostomy (p/u) surgery in the past, which can be an expensive solution for a male cat with urinary tract difficulties.

With the p/u surgery as a clue, CWA staff member Cindy posted Smokey's information on Pet FBI thinking that he was a lost, loved pet. Within hours his owner Jennifer received an email alert from Pet FBI about a cat matching her lost boy, Henry. Seven days after this big, gray boy arrived at CWA, they were reunited. Henry had been missing since late November, and Jennifer is thankful to the Good Sam who found him approximately 1.5 miles from his home.

"They brought him to the best place they could have," she says. "It saved him and it saved me."

## Honoring CWA Life Members Remembering Mary Jane Ryan

All members of Cat Welfare receive discounted tickets to events, a subscription to the *Feline Forum* and eligibility to vote at the annual Board Member elections. In addition to these core benefits, life membership affirms your long-term commitment to CWA and its mission. A life membership badge signifies your participation in this elite group of contributors. Supporters can become life members with a donation of \$250. A single payment is preferred; however, installment payments can be arranged by contacting the shelter. We would like to thank the following supporters for becoming life members in 2019:

Elizabeth & Steven Ayers, Andrew Biller, Linda Braithwaite, Deb & Jeff Chenault, Paul Dorothy, Stephen George, Emily Haninger, Jennifer Howell, Albert Humbertson Jr., Jacquelyn Martin, Jeff Martin, Karen Maykuth, Linda McAuley, Kristan Mihoci, Alison Rose, Laurie & Kevin Schofield and Kayla Tonnessen.

CWA lost a longtime friend and tireless cat advocate with the passing of Mary Jane Ryan in December.

Mary Jane wore many hats during her decades-long involvement with The Cat Welfare Association: Officer of The Board of Directors, caregiver to ill cats, stuffer and stitcher of thousands of catnip toys, sorter of resale shop donations and any other duty the cats required.

Shelter staff member Gail Harbert has this remembrance:

*I had the privilege of working with Mary Jane on Sunday mornings many, many years ago. One week I asked her if she and Bernard had a vacation planned. She laughed and said no, they had too many cats to care for. I asked how many, and she replied with a smile, "You never ask a lady her age, and at Cat Welfare, you never ask how many cats."*

We remember and honor this special lady for her tireless dedication to our mission.

# We Love Our Donors

## Ishie Memorial Fund

for long-term care of shelter residents

- Doris Litman "In memory of Kody"
  - Linda Hart "In memory of Gemma"
  - Judith Tomblin "In memory of Zoe, Ari, & Jack"
  - Sue Wilcox "In memory of Percy, who died too soon"
  - Kim Kitzmiller "In memory of Kelsey"
  - Anita Knoechel "Remembering Mischa, Kitze, Wilbert & Sushi"
  - Samuel & Diane van Schoyck "Ruby, Amanda & Tecumseh"
  - Thomas & Linda Kreger "In memory of Weebo"
  - Rita Burns "In memory of Mary Jane Ryan"
  - Nancy Vincent "In memory of Guivers & Sam"
  - Helen Seamans "In memory of Winston, Salem, Wynne, and most beloved Phoebe"
  - Heidi Sherer "In memory of Bonnie Gerber's Riley"
- Michelle Davis, Mary & John Crabbe, Darin & Teresa Plummer, Richard Austin, Inge Holway, Shirley Brooks Jones, Janice & Dan Bailey, James & Mary Criswell, Judith Boyer and Susan McKinley

## Vincent Fund

for emergency care for shelter cats

Linda Schellkopf "In memory of Dottie Martin," Robert & Patricia Ferry Jr., Penny Popper, James McMillin, Anna Teichmoeller, Nancy Heller "In memory of Magic Smith," Erin Joyce, Stacey Lyons "For Amy - In loving memory of Baby and Artemis," Julianne Hunter, Inge Holway, Martha Schellkopf "In memory of Dottie Martin," Shirley Brooks Jones, Marjorie Obrist, Janice & Dan Bailey, Robert & April Matthews, James & Mary Criswell, Karen Gee, Annette McClure, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Al Debelak & Karen Riccio's Betty," Judith Boyer and Stacey Lyons

## Cat-A-Lack Chow Club

for food for the shelter residents

Leslie Bothast, Theresa Turner "In memory of Mary L. Herold," Meghan Ferguson "In honor of Matt & Gizmo Cunningham," Mary Nye "In honor of Lisa Buchanan & John Blair," Teryn Gehred "On behalf of Mark Ingles for the Gehred family Christmas," and Heidi Sherer "In memory of Dawn Kurzynowski's Crystal"

## Joey's Good Samaritan Fund

for medical care of owned cats

Randall Hertzner "In memory of Doug Buhner and Jasmine Boots," Robert & Patricia Ferry Jr., Darin & Teresa Plummer, Melanie Murnan, Kathryn Kim, Shirley Brooks Jones, Janice & Dan Bailey, Carol Ann Bradley, Stacey Stein, Steve & Terri Carter, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Dawn Kurzynowski's Sonny," and Erica Lynne Steger

## Willard's Village Babies Fund

for care of feral cat colonies

Juanita Woods "In memory of precious Willard," Annie Lach, Richard Austin, William Hout "In memory of Doug Buhner," Darin & Teresa Plummer "Marty Plummer," Anne Riley "In memory of Ray," Juanita Woods "In memory of Creamsicle, who died Monday, November 4, 2019," Susan Bradley, Lynnette Gibboney, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Sharon Jones' Kiki," Judith Boyer and Janice Knasel

## Altering Fund

to subsidize community low-cost spay/neuter surgeries

Annie Lach, Daniel Gant, Sheila Bagley, Karen Augenstein, Edwin & Ulla Wagers, Kathryn Kim, Ron & Ann Bentley, Shirley Brooks Jones, Janice & Dan Bailey, Beth Vickio, Caroyln Sommerich, Elizabeth Crane "In honor of Laura Dehlendorf," Shirley Tobias, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Simone," and Dayna Chessin

## News and Thank You's:



To celebrate our 75th year, Pet People donated a gift bag for our 75th adoption of 2020, which was a kitten named Billie Jean. Thank you, Pet People!



# Feline Forum

February/March 2020

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLUMBUS, OH  
PERMIT NO. 407

741 Wetmore Road  
Columbus, OH 43214

[catwelfareassoc.org](http://catwelfareassoc.org)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Shelter Wish List:

Purina Cat Chow, Kitten Chow, moist cat food in tuna flavors, brown paper grocery bags, Windex, clean newspapers, clean towels, clay litter, dryer sheets, bleach, Clorox wipes, Mr. Clean Magic Eraser pads, laundry detergent, stainless steel Chore Boy scrubbers, and Mr. Clean.



## Hello, Goalie Bob

It's true. I've been the goalkeeper for a lot of cat street fights, but these days I've made amends. A staff favorite, I'm quick to steal a heart with my waddle and stubby tail. I will need a family that loves me as fiercely as I'll love them. So give me a shot and you will promptly figure out, I'm an All-Star cat!

Goalie Bob joined us in May of 2019. Upon arrival, Goalie Bob needed attention given to burns on his feet and tail. We believe this now healthy boy is approximately 4 years old.

*Cat Welfare has nearly 270 cats available for adoption. Find your new feline friend by visiting [catwelfareassoc.org](http://catwelfareassoc.org) or stopping by our shelter. The kitties would be happy to see you!*