

Feline Forum

Cat Welfare Association Newsletter

February/March 2021



Our Altering Program Kept Rolling in 2020

Even in a difficult year, the local need for spay and neuter surgeries to control cat overpopulation in Central Ohio never waned. In 2020, The Cat Welfare Association funded 2,848 of these important procedures.

We'd like to thank our volunteers who issue vouchers, those who act as a support team for our on-site NOMAD clinics and those who dedicate their time and talents to TNR. We couldn't do this important work without your help! We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our veterinary partners: NOMAD Inc., SOS of Ohio, The Animal Health Organization and ValuVet Worthington.

To find more information about our spay and neuter programs, visit our website at catwelfareas-soc.org/altering.

To learn how to better care for the cat colonies in your community, visit alleycat.org/resources/best-practices-community-cat-colony-care.



Looking Back: Points of Pride for 2020

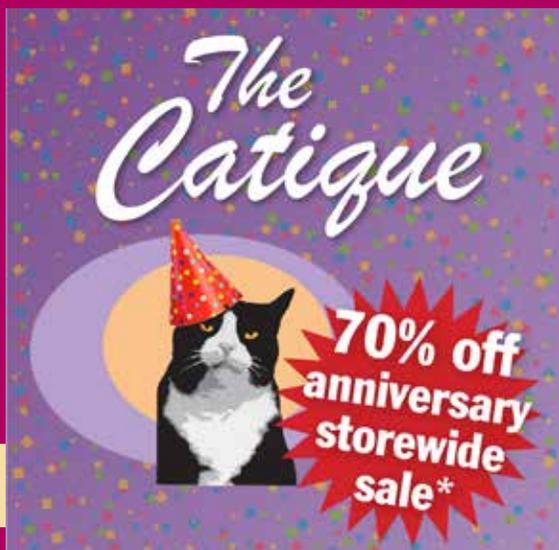
It was a challenging but encouraging year for Cat Welfare. Because of the pandemic and with the shelter's temporary closing, programs were revamped, goals redefined and staff realigned to navigate uncharted waters. We are grateful for the generosity of donors and friends, the commitment of our members and volunteers, the dedication of our staff and the leadership of our Board of Directors.

IN KEEPING WITH OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

- **838** cats and kittens were admitted to the shelter, many with life-threatening injuries.
- **275** felines were cared for daily (on average).
- **711** cats and kittens were adopted into loving homes.
- **2,848** altering surgeries were subsidized through Cat Welfare's low-cost spay and neuter programs.
- **87** companion cats received medical care, supported by Joey's Good Sam Fund, when families could not afford their cats' medical emergency treatments.
- **30,000** telephone calls from community members received a response after they reached out for assistance.
- Our Bylaws were reviewed and proposed changes are ready for a membership vote at a meeting date to be determined.

OUTREACH

- Cat Welfare successfully launched its first mail-in ballot initiative to elect Board members to fill vacancies. This approach was so well received that it is being considered for future elections.
- Our Capital Campaign continued to move forward.
- Cat Welfare received a proclamation from the Ohio Senate for our 75 years of service to the community.
- Donations through Facebook and other social media reached an all-time high.
- The Catique resale shop celebrated its six-year anniversary at the Mediterranean location. Net proceeds help to fund shelter operations.



Catique Seventh Anniversary Sale!

February 11-13

70% Off Storewide

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

facebook.com/catwelfareassoc
Helen DeSantis, Executive Director

Hours

The Cat Welfare Association is currently open by appointment only. Masks are required for entry, without exception.

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: Karen Ramey
Vice President: Brenda Martin
Secretary: Katie Thomas
Heidi Garinger • Sue Godsey
• Teresa Plummer

Treasurer: Judy Vertikoff

Ex-Officio: RoseAnn Ballangee •
Peggy Kirk

Saying Goodbye to Shelter Favorite, Bond



We had to say goodbye to our sweet Bond on November 23, 2020. His kidneys had been failing for some time, and helping him make his journey to the Rainbow Bridge was filled with many tears.

Bond brought a lot of light and joy to everyone who knew him. Even in his final days, he was doing his favorite activity: giving an endearing look up at a person, and then hopping into their lap for as long as they would let him stay.

Bond was quite a charmer. He originally came into the shelter with his loving brother, Agent, as a young adult in March 2005. Both quickly became permanent residents due to problems with spraying. The boys liked to see everything that was going on in the shelter. Their inquisitive nature made them two shelter favorites. They were never far from one another and could be quite entertaining. When a party was held for another shelter resident's 15th birthday, they took it upon themselves to check out her birthday cake and make sure it had not been tampered with. A quick jump and run through the cake revealed that everything was safe and the party could continue. Their quick actions received many a laugh from the staff and partygoers.

Both boys were much beloved lap cats that would never let an empty lap stay that way for long. Agent sadly passed away in July 2017. Bond continued on and quickly became well known for persuading people to go over to the sink to turn the water on for him so he could indulge in his passion for drinking out of the faucet.

Bond lived each moment to the fullest and made sure that everyone he came in contact with felt special and loved. He is sorely missed, and the shelter is not the same without him.

Bond and Agent will be buried in the shelter's memory garden this Spring. The date will be announced once COVID-19 restrictions will allow Bond and Agent's friends to gather and remember these special, dearly missed boys.

Thank you for loving them and for helping the shelter to provide a permanent, loving home for cats like Agent and Bond.



CWA Happy Homes



Joe was adopted four years ago and was very skittish and shy. Now he is the most social and wonderful little buddy. He enjoys catnip, cuddling, popcorn, and taking six to eight naps a day. He is loving and perfect!

Libby

Jaime, my sweet little tripod girl, has been doing very well since I got her. She likes to hop around and attack her feather wand. She's still a little surly about having a brother, but they're getting along better every day. She's still the puffy ball of purrs and head rubs I adopted.

Ashley



Without **Nelson**, our house would not be a home. He is such an amazing cat that melted my fiancé's heart from day one (formerly self-proclaimed as "not a cat guy"). We adopted him over five years ago. He loves playing on his custom-built kitty tree, watching birds out the window, and

"zooming" through the house as he attacks our legs. He finds a toy in everything, but listens VERY well (no issues with getting on counters and responding to commands). He is a very social cat who waits for us to get home, then immediately lies down and cries for attention. With such an amazing personality, we just HAD to give him his own Instagram and document the cuteness. Follow Respect.the.Nelson for more adorable pictures. Thank you, Cat Welfare, for your very important work in giving these amazing companions a chance!

Ashley & Chris



We adopted **Slider** in the spring of 2016. He was the last of his siblings left and the only kitten to cry out at us when we walked into the room! He was a tiny little runt of a kitty, and now he is quite a big boy! I am a big Cleveland baseball fan, so I named him after the team's mascot. His favorite activity is kneading our older cat Oliver's belly.

A little less than a year later we found **Pilot**, who, upon his cage being opened, immediately climbed out onto Brian's shoulder. It was love at first sight! He is still a climber and a cuddler who absolutely loves to be held. We kept his very fitting name (he was found at the airport); I thought it was especially cute because my dad is a pilot! Thank you, Cat Welfare, for these boys who bring us so much joy!

Carrie Lee & Brian Handelman

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.

The Gifts of Fostering Older Special Needs Cats

By CWA Volunteer Kristin Mihoci

First of all, I love older cats in general because I feel like they enjoy a slower pace to life and are not usually demanding in terms of intensive playtime or entertainment. I love that my older cats are quite content just to sit with me and be in the now. They are also more experienced with how things work and are generally no trouble to get to use the box.

I'm personally very drawn to older special needs cats because I honestly feel like these cats know that they need extra help, and they repay me for it in affection and loyalty. I'm a nurse, so many of these needs (medications, subcutaneous fluids, etc.) are no problem for me to handle. **However, that isn't to say that a person needs to be a medical professional to be able to have a special needs cat.** Oftentimes, the skills needed for helping a special needs cat can be learned within 15-20 minutes, and the tasks soon become second nature

and a part of a normal routine. I feel that it is very important to get these special needs older cats out of the shelter because they will enjoy a more comfortable (and likely longer) life AND free up shelter resources and staff to help take in more kittens and younger cats that are more likely to be adopted. It pulls at my heart to think about an older, sick cat having to spend their final days in a busy shelter setting. Many of them have been returned due to health issues or because their owner passed away. I want these cats to age and die with dignity in a comfortable and loving setting.

Finally, loving a pet whose life expectancy will be shorter than one of a kitten or young adult is an honored call. As a pediatric hospice nurse, I know how special and sacred the end of life is. It's a time that is uncomfortable to think about, and many folks tend to avoid or deny it, but it is something that is inevitable for us all. The love and compassion I have for a cat is increased tenfold when I know that cat will be passing away soon. It helps me to love and appreciate all of the special small moments of life with them. This translates into my day-to-day life, making me appreciate and show up with the intention of authenticity and a grateful heart in any situation. To show unconditional love and support to a dying being, whether human or animal, for me is one of the most beautiful and heartening learning experiences a person can have. All of the elderly senior cats that I've cared for have touched my heart and life in so many ways, and I truly feel that I am the lucky one, not the other way around!



Honoring New Life Members of The Cat Welfare Association

All members of The Cat Welfare Association 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 2020:

Hilary Allen, Gary Buck (in memoriam), Judy Clapper, Robert & Norma Conrad, Tim Farmer, Hazel Gallis Jones (in memoriam), Ana Garcia, Carol Hite, William Hout, Adoria Huber, Joseph Kubasek, Patricia Leonard, Art & Janet Lofton, Ronna Maclejewski, Karen Midkiff, Charles Rearick, Susan W. Roy, Judy Salisbury, James & Marilyn Scott and Becky Yingling.

Enter to Win a Litter-Robot 3 Connect



Support The Cat Welfare Association with your purchase of raffle tickets. In addition to everything seen in the photo above, the raffle winner will get a Litter-Robot 3 Connect, thanks to our partners at Auto-Pets and PetPeople. Tickets are \$10 each or \$25 for three and can be purchased by mail and online at catwelfareassoc.org/raffle. The drawing will be held on February 14.

Litter-Robot Raffle Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____

Number of Tickets _____

Total Cost _____
(\$10 per ticket, \$25 for three)

Mail to: Cat Welfare, Attn: Robot Raffle
741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214

SAVE THE DATE

The Cat Caper 5K returns!

October 9, 2021

Scioto Audubon Metro Park

Get updates at
facebook.com/CatCaper5K



Take Care of Those Teeth

February is National Pet Dental Health Month. Providing a dental cleaning for your cat promotes their overall health. Many veterinary practices offer a discount during the month of February. Contact your vet for more information.

We Love Our Donors

Ishie Memorial Fund

for long-term care of shelter residents

- Michael Bartfay "In honor of Nancy Finefrock, who loved all of her feline friends"
- Anna Teichmoeller "In memory of childhood friend Mike Geus"
- Kathleen Pursley "In memory of Phoebe"
- David Freedy "Buster Freedy"
- Ellen Albanese "In memory of Maxine Dillion"
- Anne Riley "I will always love you Bond. He was a friend to many and a wonderful boy. Born 2003 and lived at Cat Welfare 2005-November 23, 2020"
- William Hout "In memory of Agent & Bond"
- Susan Roy "In loving memory of Polly - age 16"
- Karen & Julie Yassenhoff "McKinley"
- Anita Knoechel "In memory of Mischa, Kitz, Wilbert, Sushi, Stoney"
- Thomas & Linda Kreger "In memory of Weebo"
- Richard & Lynne McWherter "Martita Dougherty"
- James & Mary Criswell "All the Criswell kitties"
- Heidi Sherer "In memory of Hemi"

Jennifer Bradley, Irina & Boris Pittel, Christopher Nordaby, Judith King, Alan Ritzert, Janice & Dan Bailey, Richard Austin, Leslie Sawyer, Janice & Jerry Noltemeyer

Vincent Fund

for emergency care for shelter cats

Linda Schellkopf, Annette McClure, Julianne Hunter, Marjorie Obrist, Leon & Patricia Co-han, Jr., Robert & Joan Williams, James & Mary Criswell "All the Criswell kitties," Connie Kellar, Joy Pratt "Jacob Pratt," Emma Pierpont, Richard Austin, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Hermione," and Janice & Jerry Noltemeyer

Cat-A-Lack Chow Club

for food for the shelter residents

Leslie Bothast, Claire Smith, Stephen Walter, Barbara Lindsey, Lynn Straley "In memory of Zoe, Anita Porter's big-hearted cat," Jenny Hoffman "In memory of Jill Moore," Kathleen Fisher, Cornelius McCoy, Colleen Nye "In honor of Lisa Buchanan & John Blair," Joseph Pramik "In the name of Mike & Wendy Pramik, including

Smokey & Marigold," Cornelius McCoy, James & Nancy Chodorow, Jennifer Pecora, Keith Hanson and Stephanie Wolf

Joey's Good Samaritan Fund

for medical care of owned cats

Randall Hertzler "In memory of Doug Buhner and Jasmine Boots," Amanda VanDeusen "In memory of Dunkle," Martha Berlin "In memory of Maxine Dillion," Sharon Hatem "In memory of Maxine Dillion," Allison Friedman, Julianne Hunter, Laura Tipton "In memory of Jason Blue," Karen Gee, Carol Smith, Carol Ann Bradley, Carol Daniels, Janet Merwin, Charles Turner, Christopher van Deusen, Jennifer Rudolph, Cindy & Bob Olmstead, Christine Dougal, Judy Johnson, Heidi Sherer "In memory of Kevin," Breanne LeJeune and Jim Kelley

Willard's Village Babies Fund

for care of feral cat colonies

Juanita & Rita Woods "In memory of precious Willard," Annie Lach, Juanita Woods "In memory of Luna who died November 12, 2016," Richard Austin, Jenny Hoffman "In memory of Jill Moore," Shawna Hall "In honor of Nancy Lawler," Juanita & Rita Woods "In memory of Bond & Agent," Carol Smith, Jerry Lori Garland "In honor of Nicole Schock," Jennifer Rudolph, Clarissa Hanson, and Peggy McKnight

Altering Fund

to subsidize community low-cost spay/neuter surgeries

Annie Lach, Andrea Johan "In memory of Buddy, Lucky, Necco, Magnet, and T.O.M.," Jennifer Clement, Jenny Hoffman "In memory of Jill Moore," Kathryn Kim, Holly Mosier, Julia Williams, Janice & Dan Bailey, Tessa Enger, Ann Bixler, Sally Ann Carpenter and Jennifer Mason

Grant Our Wish List Wishes

Help us help the kitties in our care! Find CWA's Amazon Wish List at goo.gl/eLNYhd and Chewy Wish List at bit.ly/35PLR1s.



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

741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214

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 scrubbies, and Mr. Clean.



Hello, Katy Purry

I'm a little girl with a big personality. It's good to be off the streets and in this shelter where I get lots of attention and playtime. I've seen some cats leave with visitors, and today I learned that those cats and kittens are being chosen to go home with their forever families! I had no idea that was an option; I mean, I seriously want one of those now. Just think, you and me getting to snuggle and play every single day? Come on, forever family. I know you are out there, and I'll be waiting for you.

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