



StreetCats

FALL 2018



Senior Cat Changes
and How to Help

See story on Page 5

Did you know you can shop on the Internet and benefit StreetCats at the same time? Log onto www.igive.com, designate StreetCats as your charity, or on Amazon, go through AmazonSmile and designate StreetCats, and we'll get a percentage of your purchase.

Adventures for You and Your Cat.

By Lin Egermeier,
StreetCats Volunteer

When we first got cats many years ago, I had no idea how to play with them. There was no internet with instruction or videos. There was only me and the cat and together we had to figure it out. Now we can go to YouTube, put in search criteria, and can learn how to do anything and everything. Do you know how to play with your cat?

Cat/dog/zoo shows all talk about "enrichment" which is described as *a way to enhance the quality of captive animal care by identifying and providing the environmental stimuli necessary for optimal psychological and physiological well-being.* This environmental stimulus can come in many forms.

One trend is "adventure cat." Many people who enjoy the outdoors take their cats hiking, backpacking and kayaking. While at StreetCats we believe cats are safer and healthier indoors, your cat can have adventures in your home using natural behaviors.



I have one small cat and every now and then I notice that she will pick a new spot in the house to hang out. Why? – probably to keep from being bored, to change her routine, and to discover something new. I noticed she likes to hide under the bed skirt or the bench at the foot of the bed. What I have done for her is to create a new "tent" every day. Some days I pile up the pillows on the bed and drape a sheet over the top and she can sleep cocooned in that little space. When I come home I often find her in her new "tent." Sometimes it's as simple as draping the sheet over the bench and she can rest under there and feel invisible and stealthy.

There are food toys, also called food puzzles, for those cats that eat too fast from a bowl or like to forage for their food. You put the food in the toy and your cat learns how to get the food out by batting the toy around. The boutique at StreetCats has a variety of toys that your cat can play

with alone or with you. But, don't forget about a simple cardboard box, a toy on a string or a new place to watch out the window.



Take a few extra minutes out of your day to play, go on an adventure, build a tent or snuggle. You will be rewarded with a happy, enriched, loving companion for your many years together.

Lin Egermeier is the owner and humble companion of Her Majesty, Zsa Zsa Garage (a former StreetCat).



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Stone Canyon Donation

The beautiful Stone Canyon housing development in Owasso held a fishing derby in July at their wonderful lake. StreetCats, Inc. was selected to be the beneficiary of this event and we were overwhelmed and very grateful to receive a \$1,700 donation, as you can see from the picture. From left to right is Kathy Balsiger, StreetCats President; Linda Holland, StreetCats Treasurer; and Susan McKeon, General Manager of Stone Canyon Realty. Linda attended the event and all the children had a great time with catch and release of the fish while the adults enjoyed it too. StreetCats greatly appreciates Valley Glen Veterinary Clinic for telling Stone Canyon about our

organization and to Susan who selected us. And, if you are in Owasso be sure to check out their wonderful housing development and tell them StreetCats "sent" you.



A word from our President

I hope this newsletter finds you and your beloved pets having an awesome year. I want to stress the importance of spay and neuter. I had a personal experience recently finding a pregnant cat in my neighborhood. My decision to take her in saved her life and the seven kittens she had a week later. That's how the cat population escalates. We, as responsible pet owners, are making a difference by making sure our cats are spayed and neutered. If you hear of someone who finds a stray cat please share information about our voucher program. It may save the life of a cat as well as help prevent further population escalation. You can tell them to call our message line at 918-298-0104 or look on our website at www.streetcatstulsa.org (under Spay/Neuter Program) for more information.

Thank you for all your support as volunteers and donors. You are making a difference!

Kathy Balsiger, StreetCats President

ADOPTIONS 4/1/18 THROUGH 9/30/18

Unfortunately we've had a number of kitties returned to us but these lucky kitties have hopefully found their forever homes and we do have more wonderful ones waiting to be adopted.

Angus – M Laizure & D Oliver

Annie – H&B Swiggart

Ava – J&B Jacobson

Bat Cat – P Velez

Black Jack – G Smith

Blu – S Insall

Bobbi – K Bresciano

Boris – M Collins

Bruno – M Ingersoll

Bubbles – C Durr

Carly – K Bresciano

Daisy – S Mason

'Fraidy – S Insall

Fritz – E Connor

Fuzzball – C Smith

Jazz – B Brown

Julie – T Nettleship

Lexi – E Connor

Luna – J Roscoe

Melodie – K Burkhalter

Mike – A & J Scheiper

Miles – J Meadows

Monkey – M Girard

Pearl – C&A Layton

Peggy – L Vickery

Phoebe – A Handy

Salty – R Guerrero

Stallone – C&A Layton

Sweet – R Guerrero

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Tia – N Jervis



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Warm and Fuzzy Stories

Fuzzball is a beautiful blue tabby that was adopted by Chloe Smith. Fuzzball (also called Fuzz, Babe, or Cat) has become a very successful alarm clock - every morning she licks Chloe's face until she pets Fuzzball or gets up and gives her some attention. Fuzzball has a cat tree that she is very fond of and she loves playing with a laser pointer. Although she really likes catnip, Chloe has to limit the amount that



Fuzzball

she gets because Fuzzball can get a little wild and crazy unless it's in moderation. Fuzzball, unlike most cats I know, actually likes to have her tummy rubbed.

Angus, a handsome blue and white Van, was adopted by Madeline Laizure and David Oliver. His owners say that he is very



Angus

much a water cat. He loves camping out in the sink. When anyone walks by he will meow to let them know that he wants them to turn on the faucet for him. One of his favorite toys is a mouse on a string. Angus can jump surprisingly high, considering his size, to get the mouse. He loves having his chin scratched and likes being near people, but not sitting on people. If he walks into a room where people are sitting Angus will walk around and around; if Madeline brings a cat bed into that room he will im-

mediately go over and sit on it. Like the saying goes, "Dogs have owners and cats have staff."

Coleman and Tammy (Blu and 'Fraidy when they were at StreetCats) are gorgeous long-haired black tabbies that are litter mates adopted by Sylvia Insall. They came to StreetCats with their mom and another sibling (who are still available for adoption together). These two like to eat breakfast and then spend a good part of the morning in the patio room watching birds and other creatures in the backyard. Like most cats, they like to nap. They prefer napping in the study by the windows or on the bed in the guest room - a favorite place for Tammy. They have a toy box that gets a lot of use. They both pick out the toy they want to play with, but Sylvia says they haven't learned to put the toys back in the box when they are through. Coleman has a very special mouse toy that he likes to carry around the house and "talk" about it every step of the way. Most nights they sleep on the bed with Sylvia. They are very well-behaved and settle down after being petted.



Helping the Feral Cat Population

By Vicki Anderson,
StreetCats Volunteer

Feral cats have lived their entire lives away from humans, unlike stray cats who started as pets and escaped, were abandoned, or born as strays but were fed by people. Like raccoons or opossums, they are wild animals living at a distance from humans. They have never interacted with humans, have no desire to do so, and often catch their own food or eat scraps they find at times when no humans are around. Feral cats will hide from humans at all costs and become very defensive and aggressive when captured or approached.

Living in the wild poses a more natural circle of life and feral cats generally do not live as long as their domestic counterparts but they are generally very happy in their natural, human-free world. However, there are some things you can do to help them.

Trap, Neuter, Release

Perhaps the most important piece of human interaction is the ability to trap, neuter and release these feral cats. Trapping feral cats, spaying and neutering them and then releasing them to their natural homes away from people has shown to significantly

decrease the feral cat populations all over the world. This also improves the quality of life for stray and pet cats, as there are fewer chances of contracting illnesses from the feral animals. Most feral cats that have been spayed or neutered will have a notch in their ear.

Begin A Feeding Schedule

Feral cats do appreciate a regular source of food. Although you shouldn't just leave food out constantly, setting up a schedule will help the cats feel a little more comfortable around humans. They'll likely wait for you to leave since you're rather threatening in their eyes. Keep the food out for 45 minutes to an hour, because any longer will actually entice other wildlife - like insects, raccoons and even coyotes - into your neighborhood. Work with your neighbors on where to feed these cats as well, since many might not be as excited as you to have cats around their home.

Offer Shelter Away from People

Building shelters is another nice gesture towards feral cats. There are hundreds of

easy, DIY cat-house projects to follow on the internet. One such shelter was featured in our Fall 2016 issue which you can find on our website, www.StreetCatsTulsa.org. Simple shelters are very easy to make, and if you're extra crafty, providing an insulated shelter will help during extreme temperatures. Shelters can be left in places where the feral cats regularly roam, so long as your neighbors don't consider it an eyesore. Furthermore, you might find that these shelters are often used as nesting areas for female cats with kittens. Taking these kittens in and rehabilitating them once they are ready to leave their mother will increase their chances of finding a loving home as a domesticated pet. If possible, try and catch mom too so she can be spayed and returned to her natural life.

With successful TNR projects and minimal care such as food and shelter from people, feral cats can and do live long, happy lives. Their lives might not look ideal to us, but they are often happier outside than being fostered in a home with strangers.

December Fundraisers



Need a pick me up while going through the holiday season? Of course, we all do! Come join us for a dinner fundraiser at **Smitty's Garage on 71st Street** just east of Sheridan (7104 S. Sheridan Rd. behind Reasor's) on **Wednesday, December 12 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

StreetCats will get 10% of all sales during this time period so please bring your appetites and enjoy their great food – everyone loved it when we had our first fundraiser there in June. Smitty's Garage has outstanding "burgers" made with ground beef, bison, grilled chicken, vegan or turkey (and they have a lamb burger on Wednesdays which some really enjoyed). The "burgers" can be prepared 15 different ways plus extra toppings and be sure to try the sweet potato or regular fries – scrumptious! They also have various tacos, salads, other sandwiches, and appetizers plus a kid's menu.

Just go, order, enjoy, and support StreetCats – no flyer or coupon is needed!

BARNES & NOBLE

We will also be gift wrapping your purchases at **Barnes & Noble in the Southroads Shopping Center** (41st Street between Yale & I44/Sheridan) for donations. Barnes & Noble provides the wrapping paper and we provide the bows and gift cards. We were unable to get the times and dates we wanted this year, but we will be wrapping from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, December 7 through Sunday, December 9 and then in the evenings from 5-9 p.m. from Friday, December 14 through Thursday, December 20. We may have a few open spots to put your gift-wrapping skills to use, so if you are interested in helping us with this fundraiser, please call Linda Holland at 918-492-8887.

Looking forward to seeing lots of StreetCats supporters at both Smitty's Garage (12/12 5:30-8:30) and Barnes & Noble in December and our kitties will be purring in happiness for your help!

LOOKING FOR HOMES: Joe, Tubby & Mama

Hi everyone, my name is Joe. Some people think I resemble an adorable stuffed animal because of my fluffy black and white fur, precious face and extraordinarily large paws! (I'm just repeating what I overheard, I promise!) All I know is that I'm a 4 year old male looking for a wonderful, loving home where I can be myself....and be the only cat in the house! Spending some time defending myself as a homeless cat on the street made me rather wary. I adore people, but other cats really do stress me out. Stop by to visit me at StreetCats sometime soon, and I'll convince you we are meant to be best friends for life!



Hello, pleased to meet you – I'm Joe.

My name is Tubby, and this is my mom. I call her Mama, naturally. Mama gave birth to me and my siblings at a rather young age - she was only 6 months old! Fortunately, someone rescued her so we could be safely born inside. Mama is very shy around people, likely because she was on her own on the streets earlier. That was a tough life for her as an impressionable young kitten! She's now almost 2 years old, and I am around a year and a half. We are both brown tabbies, but each have our own distinct and beautiful markings. We



Hi! My name is Tubby. Mama is shown below.



love each other very much and rely on each other to get through our shyness, so we must be adopted together. Because I never experienced solitary street life, I'm more open to the attention of people. My Mama is just the sweetest thing, but she will need a very loving, safe and patient home that gives her plenty of time to adjust and get comfortable. I love to play, and Mama does too when she feels safe. Having me around will really help her to come out of her shell, too. Would you please give us a chance to stay together and become your dearest companions?



Your Senior Cat is Changing – How You Can Help.

By Vicki Anderson,
StreetCats Volunteer

As our cats age, their bodies change and their needs may start to differ. They become more sensitive physically and mentally, their bodies and minds start to change, and they will need some extra help living out their golden years in happiness and health. You can make life better for your aging kitty by considering these tips.

More Beds

Senior cats generally spend more time sleeping than when they were younger, so giving them some extra beds and blankets to lie on will be much appreciated. The softer the better, because as our cats age their bodies become stiffer with arthritis and hard surfaces will be painful to lie on.

Stairs & Ramps

Our senior cats still want to be by our sides wherever we go, but as they age they may not be able to jump or walk as well as they used to. They may appreciate pet stairs and ramps to help them get on and off of beds and furniture and you'll appreciate the snuggles.

Diet Change

In the same way your cat may need different nutrients in their senior years, they may need different calories as well. Weight change is very common in senior cats. They are either getting too many nutrients and calories and become overweight or are struggling to maintain a healthy weight because their muscles are weakening and they are becoming thinner. Work with your veterinarian to make sure your cat maintains the appropriate weight. You might not need to change your cat's food, but you may need to change the amount you feed and any supplements you're giving.

Keep Active

Just like you, your cat needs to stay active to stay healthy. Keeping your cat active will help maintain her mobility throughout her old age. They are of-

Keeping your cat active will help maintain her mobility throughout old age.

ten young at heart and enjoy playing all of the games they did throughout their earlier years and perhaps even some new ones too!

Joint supplements may be recommended by your veterinarian.

Extra Comfort

As our cats age and their bodies change, these changes will bring about more sensitivity. Your cat may be more susceptible to hot and cold weather, so make sure you're able to keep them cool during summer and warm during winter. Fans will help with heat while coats will help with cold.

Increased Veterinary Care

You and your cat may be visiting your veterinarian more often. This is because so many ailments come with age. Joint pain and mobility issues, weakened immune systems and other age-related illnesses often set in during your kitty's senior years. Your veterinarian may recommend more frequent check-ups for early detection of certain ailments such as cancers and organ diseases.

With a little help from you and your veterinarian, your companion will be there to give and get the love you both deserve for many years.



Donations to StreetCats

As you know StreetCats is operated by all volunteers and our program uses donations and fundraisers to support what we do. We greatly appreciate donations via cash, checks, credit/debit cards, and PayPal. Our web site (www.streetcatstulsa.org) has a "Donate" button under both the "Home" and "You Can Help" sections to make either PayPal or credit/debit card donations. It was recently brought to our attention that people using PayPal were having difficulty finding a place to record the reason for their donation, i.e. a memorial, an honor, membership, etc. That has now been corrected with a Comment area added for PayPal donations. If you use a credit/debit card there is also a Comment section underneath the amount donated area. As an FYI, all donations made through our web site "Donate" button, whether it is a donation from your PayPal account or a credit/debit card donation, come through PayPal and we are notified that a PayPal donation has been made and we are charged a PayPal transaction fee even though we are a 501c3 organization.

All donations are acknowledged with a thank you/tax letter and if the donation is in memory or honor of a person please be sure to include a name and address so we can send them a letter letting them know of your thoughtfulness (donation amount is not given to a recipient). It's also very helpful if the acknowledgment is going to a son, daughter, friend, etc. that we know the relationship, so the letter can be better personalized.

We thank each of you for every donation and our kitties appreciate all the support you give so they can continue to be well-fed, have a safe and clean place to stay, and get the best veterinary care while they are with us.



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home



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Memorials

Donations made in memory of loved ones between April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

G & D Adams in memory of Rhonda Freeman
 D Babb for Vickie & Stephen Ludiker in memory of their cat of 12 years, Simone
 B Bayes in memory of Auggie & Fiona for Jodi & Lester Wise
 L Brown in memory of Cinder for JoAnn Alderman & Kathy Stien
 H & C & J Chipp in memory of Jess Insall for his wife Sylvia
 G R Russell in memory of Carson Russell
 B Cohen in memory of Ricochet 1999-2015
 C Conley in memory of Lola
 S Davis remembering Sarah Bastet, Sonoma Bastet & Mava Cara
 J Ferrera in memory of Rhonda Freeman
 D Gotwals in memory of Katherine Hughes, her mother
 D & D Hall in memory of Linda Youngclaus
 P Heath in memory of Missy
 S Insall in memory of their beloved Burmese cat "Gemini Gal" who died at age 18
 S Insall, M&B Leu, J&A Kraushaar in memory of Jess Insall
 S & V Ludiker in memory of their cat Simmie
 K Lukas in memory of Rhonda Freeman, a dear friend and fellow cat lover
 P Lundak in memory of Boo
 B Malloy in memory of Ken Haggard for his daughter Lisa Alkana
 D Morse in memory of his wife Patricia
 National Story Tellers League in memory of Jess Insall
 M & N Nauman in memory of Pyewacket

J Polkinghorne in memory of Bubby for John Polkinghorne
 M & B Richardson in memory of "Brother" on what would be his 28th birthday
 T Ritterhouse in memory of her pets Loki, Babykins, Lightning, Tibbs, Bear, Jake, GrayBaby, & Tommy
 H Russell in memory of Carson Russell for Thad & Wanda McClinton
 A Saunders in memory of Garfield
 A Shelby in memory of her sister Susan who would pet their cats
 J Smithen in memory of her sweet tabby, Heftti and in memory of her precious red tabby, Clancy Chester
 B Soper in memory of Shamrock
 A Stanford in memory of Juanita Stanford
 J Thomas in memory of Cheryl Kilpatrick's beloved Buddy
 M Thomas in memory of Okeo for Bridgete
 J Thomsen in memory of Carson Russell
 D Tucker in memory of Kiwi who died in 2016
 E Uba in memory of SDHL
 J Waldrop in memory of Carly
 D Westfield in memory of Cassie
 E Wienhold in memory of Catherine Ann Ibrahim for Sherry Beach, her daughter
 C Wong in memory of her sister Susan Morris on what would have been her 66th birthday
 S Wylie in memory of Missy

Appreciation and Honors

Donations given in appreciation of or in honor of someone between April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

S Baucom in honor of Martha Williams for her birthday
 K Bryan in honor of Miss Marple & her new forever home
 B & G Clarkson and J & M Anderson in honor of Vicki Anderson
 C Cox in honor of Kathy Huber's birthday & Bella
 P & M Craft in appreciation of Church aka Juke
 G Grove in appreciation of all StreetCats does to rescue and care for the cats
 K Huber in honor of Carol Cox & Grayson
 K Jones in honor of Shaun Jones' birthday
 Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Leininger in appreciation of Star tolerating dental work and other testing
 L Mayo in honor of Pam Terhune and her retirement
 L Moyer in honor of Diva on her 10th birthday & her 5-year adoption from StreetCats

William Bryan Mullen in honor of Bob
 Kari Pahno in honor of StreetCats for all they do
 E Richards in honor of Gianna's and Cam's birthdays
 P Rogers in honor of Janice K. Luster for her birthday
 S Russell in honor of Courtney Clark
 T Skinner in appreciation of the House of Night books
 M Taylor to help with Simon's medical expenses in his honor
 J Turner in honor of Pat Friend's birthday (her sister & StreetCats volunteer)
 S Whittlesey in appreciation of Daisy adopted in 2015; we love her!
 C Wilson in honor of Liam Allen's 9th birthday

Did You Know?

A butt in your face is a sign of kitty affection—and should be taken as a compliment. Scent glands are located at the corners of the mouth, on the sides of the head, under the chin and ears, along the length of the tail, and in the spaces between the toes. So, when a cat rubs against you and presents his tail, he is saying he loves and trusts you.



StreetCats Sponsors

Thank you to everyone for thinking of our kitties and donating to us. Please be assured that we value every donation received, however, we are unable to recognize all donors in this newsletter. Listed below are Sponsors who made monetary or in-kind general donations valued at \$100 or more between 4/1 and 9/30/18.

Everyone, please come visit our kitties and you'll get many purrs of thanks for your support.

Aetna	Linda & Michael Fisher	Marianne & John McLean	Family Trust
Nancy Ahmed	Feline Specialties	Kenneth O. Miller, Jr.	Smitty's Garage
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	Jason Maloney		Herbert W. Wright III
	Linda McDaniel		Donna Wright



Are You Ready To Shop?

Christmas is around the corner and that means it's time to get your shopping mojo on. StreetCats has what you need for every good little kitty and kitty lover. And what's better than knowing your shopping dollars are going toward helping our purring friends?

Our **Adoption Center** at 6520 E. 60th St. in Tulsa behind Charlie's Chicken has a wonderful selection of toys such as the DaBird wand and refills (you know your cat always goes eagerly for those feathers), mice, balls, and other miscellaneous fun stuff for your kitty like the Zoom Groom for kitty massages. Our catnip pillows (made by one of our volunteers) are always a popular item. Remember your kitty lover friends with towels, mouse pads, cat socks, scarves, umbrellas, purses and cosmetic bags. And much much more.

We will again have a double booth at **An Affair of the Heart of Tulsa**, November 16-18, at the River Spirit Expo on the Tulsa fairgrounds. You'll find us at our

usual location in booths 463/464 near the south door by the Golden Driller. The show is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. We will have many of the items sold in our Adoption Center, but we also have many new items for the show including long sleeve t-shirts, Christmas towels, cards, ornaments, miniature figurines, key chains, cat night lights, cat pillow shams, and snap bracelets with a variety of insets. You just have to come to the show to see all the great ways we can help you check off your Christmas shopping list.

Don't forget our booth at **Jade on Main**, 1639 S. Main, Broken Arrow, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. You might find a unique treasure that you won't find at either of our other locations.

Once Christmas is over and you have had a chance to rest we hope you will be ready for more shopping at the **NEW Af-**

STREETCATS WISH LIST FALL '18

For StreetCats:

- Wal-Mart/Sam's Gift cards; any denomination
- Paper Towels
- Tall strong kitchen size trash bags; prefer Glad or Hefty
- Clay litter used in our facility (scoopable used in foster homes)
- Printer/copy paper
- Laundry detergent pods or liquid laundry soap
- Clorox liquid bleach
- Clorox Clean-Up spray cleaner or refill container
- Fancy Feast small cans in both gravy and pate textures
- Friskies canned food in both gravy and pate textures
- Bottled water – (small bottles for volunteers)
- Small paper plates
- Postage stamps
- Blue Fabulosa w/Bleach Alternative (floor cleaner)
- Bags or boxes of dry cat food for voucher customers (opened is OK)
- Hand soap and hand lotion
- Meals on Wheels Wish List**
- Scoopable Litter
- Unopened bags or boxes of dry cat food
- Canned cat food

fair of the Heart of Tulsa event that will be held March 29-31, 2019. The other two have been so successful that the promoters are adding a third to the calendar and we will be there in our favorite spot ready to talk cats with you and show you our favorite items for sale.

Remember that all proceeds go to supporting our StreetCats kitties, keeping them healthy, happy and fed. They are waiting for you to come into our shop, pet them, fall in love with them, and adopt them. Looking forward to seeing you soon and talking about cats!





StreetCats, Inc.

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FALL 2018

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Tulsa, OK • 74145 • (918) 298-0104 (message line)
www.StreetCatsTulsa.org
E-mail: Cats@StreetCatsTulsa.org

Gift boutique and adoption center located on
the east side of South Sheridan at 60th Street.

Hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday.

StreetCats, Inc. is a 501(c)(3)
tax-deductible nonprofit organization.

For Cats Love Christmas Too

Judy Loyd
10/1/18

Listen to me little one
For I have much to say
Your life has changed so very much
And now you're not a stray.

Perhaps it was that brilliant star
That shines this wondrous night
Or your sad and hungry little face
For you were such a sight.

But all of that's behind you
For this is now your home
With food and warmth and so much love
I know you'll never roam.

I welcome you with all my heart
For I was once like you
On a cold and snowy Christmas Eve
My hopes and dreams were few.

But now we're safe and both inside
Our lives begin anew
And in our secret way we smile
For cats love Christmas too.



If you are looking for previous
poems or articles, our newsletters
are on our website under
Resources, Past Newsletters.