

# STREETCATS CHAT

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, and we'll get a percentage of the purchase. Igive has over 700 merchants in more than 40 different categories, so you're sure to find something you love!

Fall 2012

## SUPPORT STREETCATS AT CRAFT SHOWS!

Most of us love the holiday season, and StreetCats will be at craft and gift shows with wonderful items for your kitties, your family and friends, and for you. (We all deserve that purrfect gift for ourselves after shopping for everyone else!)

An Affair of the Heart of Tulsa will be at QT Center at the fairgrounds Nov. 16-18. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. This is the largest of the gift and craft shows in the Tulsa area! We love having people come to our booth year after year, and they always find something special. We'll be in our same location (one aisle to the east of the large center aisle) in booths 423 and 424.

Darnaby Craft Show will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at the UMAC, 6836 S. Mingo. It's the first year for this large craft show to be held at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center. It has always been a very popular show. We don't know where our booth will be, but we know you'll find us and our great items.

**The Alliday Show** will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Ford Truck Center at the fairgrounds. This is primarily a handmade arts and crafts fair at which local people sell unique items they have made or repurposed. We'll have a small booth here which will focus on handmade things, but as a nonprofit organization, we will also be allowed to have other gifts and toys.

Some items that will be for sale at all shows: Handcrafted catnip pillows in holiday themes; knitted dish cloths, "trash" totes, and cat dolls; Laurel Burch purses and jewelry, plus some new items in this same line; embroidered shirts and totes; great mugs with new sayings on them; and popular cat toys (just get the shopping list from your kitty!)

We look forward to seeing you. We love to hear your great kitty stories!

#### **BOUTIQUE HAS NEW ITEMS FOR FALL**

Fall is in the air — that crisp, cool feeling as summer finally fades away. Jackets and sweaters are pulled from closets, people seem to be enjoying life more, and even the kitties show a friskier side.

The windows at StreetCats are decorated with colorful leaves, and plush kitties are off to school and helping with the harvest. Seasonal displays forecast that the holidays are just around the corner.

We have new merchandise to start off the season as well!

New, sweet and funny T-shirts and cute totes with cats on them, some new mugs just waiting to be filled with coffee, hot tea and cocoa, and handcrafted cat dolls are all on hand. There is a whole new collection of embroidered items, including sweatshirts, denim chambray shirts, long fleece scarves, baby sun hats and bibs, stadium blankets, and canvas bags. Many of these have our logo or name on them or cute kitty motifs.

Of course we always have a lovely collection of Laurel Burch handbags and other items, along with our popular kitty cat socks, colorful cat bowls, and volunteermade catnip pillows in seasonal fabrics. If you are looking for cat-themed greeting cards, we have the best selection in town.

Stop, shop, say hello and pet (or adopt) a StreetCat. We will be looking for you!

Our hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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*Mission Statement:* StreetCats, Inc., believes that all cats deserve a home. StreetCats wishes to reduce the population of unwanted cats by maintaining "A Stitch-in-Time," a spay and neuter program for feral and stray cats, and by sheltering cats who no longer have people to care for them. We seek adoptive families who value animals and will love and protect our StreetCats.

### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, KATHY BALSIGER

The Holiday season is coming! Through the last 15 years, many volunteers have made StreetCats successful. I want to personally thank every one of you, past and present. Few successful organizations are run entirely by volunteers, as StreetCats continues to be. As we look to the future of StreetCats, please share your enthusiasm with others about the joy and fun of volunteering. Our kitties so appreciate the love and caring (and cleaning!) from every one of you. I'm looking forward to a great 2013 of saving lots of little feline lives and finding them forever homes.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming holiday events and at the Adoption Center.

Kathy Balsiger President, StreetCats, Inc.

## SPOTLIGHT KITTIES

Lulu is a dilute tabby female, approximately 8 years old, with what have been lovingly called "Bette Davis eyes" - they are indeed very captivating! Lulu was found abandoned and can be fearful and reluctant to trust. She had a difficult time transitioning into the shop with the other cats, so she earned a coveted spot in the Street-Cats office. This allows her to spend time with the volunteers and gives her a chance to observe the other cats without firsthand contact. It made a wonderful difference in her outlook, and she now seeks out attention and purrs with abandon when petted or brushed. She does need a gentlehanded, attentive owner that will give her time to adjust and trust, as well as a home with no other cats. We know she will reward you with many long, loving looks with those fabulous eyes!



Lulu

**Snowflake** is a solid white female, approximately 2 years old, with emerald green eyes. She was found as a stray, and her rescuer was unable to keep her. Fortunately, she made her way



to Street-Cats and is seeking a place to call her own. Snowflake is not very comfortable around other cats,

so she would likely do best in a home with no other cats, or possibly one cat. She absolutely loves to play, but because of her unease with other cats (who also like to play), she doesn't often get the opportunity. She enjoys the attention of volunteers in the shop as well as being petted, and would love to find a home in which she can relax and savor the play time she craves.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES AND NEWS! www.StreetCatsTulsa.org www.facebook.com/streetcatsinc

#### **My Furry Valentine set for Feb. 10**

The holidays are near, with Thanksgiving meals in preparation and Christmas decorations taking over everywhere you look. Of course this means we at StreetCats are thinking about "My Furry Valentine" — it is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for our biggest fundraiser of the year: Sunday, Feb.10, 2013 at The Tulsa Historical Society. We will be sending out invitations in January for this special event, and would love to have you join us for an afternoon of silent auction shopping, dessert tasting, and visiting with friends. Many of you look forward to the quilt raffle each year, and we will once again have a beautiful handmade quilt by **Nancy Adams**.

We have had many wonderful years of fundraising for StreetCats at this event, and we strive to make it an event everyone looks forward to attending for years to come. We hope to attract more attendees to our event, not only for a great Valentine's celebration but also to bring attention to the StreetCats cause. If you have questions or need additional information about "My Furry Valentine," please contact **Linda Holland** at *scoutholland@cox.net* or (918) 492-8887.

If you are interested in donating items or soliciting donations for the event, the following information is for you. Donations can be brought to us at StreetCats during business hours until January 15. Please be sure to fill out a donation form when you leave your item(s) so we are able to send you information for tax purposes. We have a few suggestions that have been given to us from attendees, and we would like to pass these along, as well as some guidelines:

We would love to have some very exciting, big-ticket items to auction. If you or someone you know might be willing to donate items such as vacations, airline tickets, event tickets (sporting events, concerts, etc.), high-quality jewelry, etc., please ask if they might be willing to donate. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so donations are tax deductible. Or, if you prefer, pass along the contact information, and we would be happy to contact them for you.

We always want our favorite animal represented in our silent auction (hint: meow!), but we also realize we have a diverse crowd in attendance; therefore, we are very interested in having more donations of non-cat items this year, and we would like to request donations of items suitable for either a

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part of my home, providing 24-hour custom care & security

www.CamillesCathouse.com (918) 248-8100 "The Best Little Cathouse in Oklahoma" man or woman and items specifically for men.

We have also had suggestions that we auction more single items; for example, a gourmet coffee grinder/brewing machine versus a gift basket with coffee cups, coffee beans, etc. Unique items that might be difficult to find make fantastic auction items, as they create excitement with our bidders.

We also have some categories in which we get more items donated than we can use in the auction. These items include bath and spa-type products, books, and costume jew-

> elry. Please know that while we try to use all our donations, we always have things we are unable to use in the auction each year. This may be because we have too many donations of one type of item, because the donation is a used item, or because we simply have received too many wonderful things to use we do have limited space for auction items at the event! Once we receive your donation, it becomes the property of StreetCats to use as we see fit unless you request it to be returned if we do not use it. We promise to use your donation to further our cause, even if it is not

used in the silent auction: We are able to sell some items in our gift boutique, used items are often donated to other animal agencies in need, and other items are equally wellused in other ways. Rest assured that your donation makes a difference. If you are interested in donating an auction item but need suggestions or assistance, we would be happy to help. Please contact **Angela DeWalt** at *angela.dewalt@cox. net* if you have questions or need suggestions.

We are always interested in donations of desserts from our local restaurants for the dessert tasting. If you have restaurant or bakery contacts, we would appreciate your request for a donation or, if you prefer, we will contact the restaurant for you. Please contact Joyce DeBoard (*jadtul@yahoo.com* or 918-446-9172) regarding dessert donations.

We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support given to us and for the donations we receive from our faithful supporters. Our fundraising events give us the ability to continue our amazing adoption and spay and neuter programs each year. To each of you, thank you for your loyal support of StreetCats. We look forward to seeing you at "My Furry Valentine" 2013!



#### STREETCATS ACCEPTS PAYPAL!



Did you know that you can make donations online if you have a PayPal account? If you don't have an account, you will be asked to create one when you pay. It is quick and easy! Log in to PayPal or use the link from the StreetCats Web site.

1. Click on **Send Money** tab. With PayPal, you can make your payment via debit, credit, or bank transfer.

2. Pay to: cats@streetcatstulsa.org

3. After you put in the amount you want to donate, click on the PERSONAL tab below; then choose GIFT. If you pay with debit or bank transfer, neither you nor StreetCats will be charged a processing fee.

4. On the next page, if you scroll down before you hit the SEND MONEY button, there is a box where you can put a note. This is helpful if the donation is a memorial or honorarium gift, or if you want your thank you letter to be e-mailed to you or sent to a different address than the one in which your PayPal account is registered.

#### Honoraria

- Jan Bailey in honor of her Street-Cat Annie, adopted in 2007! Happy Birthday Annie!
- Kathy Balsiger in honor of Cliff Aldrich's birthday
- Vicki Berg in appreciation of Barbara Linehan for her diligent care of animals
- Bill, Mary, Allison, Russ, Jillian, and Jack Coleman in honor of Aunt Martha Williams' birthdav
- Pat Craft in appreciation of her StreetCat, Church
- Gary and Pat Crocker in honor of Rita Rowe's birthday
- Garv and Pat Crocker in honor of Phil Marshall's birthday
- Cindy Croft in honor of Mary Schaub's birthday!
- Pat Crowe in honor of her cats, Dusty and Kimi
- Judy Kidd in honor of Dr. Christee Jenlink's birthday
- Michael and Sharon King in honor of Avery

- Karen Lamoreaux in honor of her mother, Lynn Tyner, on Mother's Day
- Darryl and Jason Loyd in honor of Judy Lovd
- Sharon Lundstrom in appreciation of Joey owned by Sarah Keltina
- Rebecca Marcus in honor of Judy Lovd for all her good works for StreetCats Janet Persson in honor of Kay Lorenzen's birthdav
- Janie Polk in honor of Dr. Christee Jenlink's birthday
- Jeannie Ricketts in honor of her mother. Anne Ricketts
- Jandra Smithen in honor of kitty Heffti's 8th birthday!



## SPONSORS

Sponsors have made contributions of \$100 or more.

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#### WARM AND FUZZY STORIES FROM NEW HOMES



**Poncho:** Poncho's new owner has renamed him Pouf, and he is just one of the family now. Pouf

seems to think that he is a dog;

he has taken on the personality

of their bulldog that has passed

away and has become best bud-

Ziggy and Myrtle were adopted

by two separate owners who are

roommates. Myrtle was adopted

dies with their other dog.

Sweetie: At StreetCats, Sweetie spent a lot of time sleeping in her bed on the cabinet in the corner; she didn't get around much to socialize with visitors. Since she was adopted, her owner says she is happy and likes to greet guests by rubbing against them. Sweetie is also very good at acting like a backup alarm clock; after her owner's alarm goes off, Sweetie likes to "talk" to her.



gy in StreetCats, so he decided he also needed a new pal.

Myrtle likes to wait in the window for her owner when he comes home from work; all he can see when he comes in is her tail hanging down below the curtain.

She loves to be the center of

attention and will stand on his

Mvrtle

book or laptop until she gets petted. She has a cute little meow when you rub her head.

Ziggy wasn't sure at first about having a home and then having to share it with a female he hadn't associated with at StreetCats.

Ziggy was so crazy about his new owner, however, that he made adjustments to his thinking, and now he is more than happy to share his home with Myrtle and two great guys.



Ziggy



Poncho

MEMORIALS

In memory of our own Tina Merritt: Sheila Chenoweth, Mary Kaye McElroy, Kathy Balsiger, Nancy Cline, Linda Holland, Jennifer

first, but the roommate without a kitty really bonded with Zig-

Stanford, Samantha Polen, her friends in New Mexico Judy Averill in loving memory of kitties, Gracie and Isabella

Jim and Linda Bailey in memory of Kathy Duke

Patsy Baker in memory of her daughter, Joan Baker

Jeannie Brase in memory of Kimo

Julie Brewer in memory of Smudge (1992- 2012)

Fostine Buckner in memory of FeFe and Brandy

Gary and Pat Crocker in honor of Phil and Betty Marshall's much loved former StreetCat, Boomer (originally Norman, adopted at age 5 in 2003)

Jean Dix in memory of Tuxedo "Tux", former StreetCat Speedy Diana Gotwals in memory of Dan Brown

Margo Ham in memory of Sweetie Face on the occasion of her birth month

Ron and Sharon Hill in memory of Kathy Duke

Judy Huitt in memory of the Polens' Peaches

Robin Johnson in memory of Jan Thompson's Mollee

Leo Kattein in memory of his furry brother, Ebony, who is very much missed

Andrea Spears Kidwell in memory of Stephanie Pierce's beloved kitty, Peekers

Andrea Kidwell in memory of her long time kitty friend, Zeppelin

Cherie Lewis in loving memory of her StreetCat, Safari, adopted in 2002

Phil and Betty Marshall in memory of Boomer

Cheryl Moore in memory of her cousin Kathryn S. Duke Dennis Morris in memory of Susan Morris Arlene Norwood in memory of kitty, Bugsy

Samantha Polen in memory of Andrea's kitty Zeppelin

- Samantha and David Polen in memory of David and Camilla Haugen's Casey
- Samantha and David Polen in memory of Paul and Sharyl Landis' Mika Tika

Bob and Marion Richardson in memory of a cat named Brother Kenneth Sole in memory of Pat Griffith

Susan Strange in memory of Daniel Brown

Donna Swaffar in memory of Donald and Terry Carey's Cameo Janet Thomas in memory of Roxie for John's birthday

Erich and Doris Westfield in memory of Margaret Musselman Dr. Kristi Wittlich in memory of the Katteins' loving, brave, very

Dr. Kristi Wittlich in memory of the Katteins loving, brave, very sweet kitty, Ebony

Connie Wong in memory of Susan Morris on her birthdate



#### **CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO HEALTHINESS**

#### By a StreetCats volunteer

How many of you reading this newsletter drink your coffee from the same cup every morning? Do you use the same dirty cup, never washing it? Didn't think so! And how many of you eat your oatmeal or breakfast cereal from the same unwashed bowl every morning? Still no hands raised?!

Yet how many of us are that careful and clean when it comes to our kitties' water bowls and food bowls? When our cats eat and drink from dirty dishes and bowls, we may as well put up "welcome" signs for insects and rodents! Mold and bacteria can also become a problem when dishes are not washed regularly.

Stainless steel bowls won't chip or crack like glass or ceramic or porcelain bowls will. Plastic bowls can be used also, but plastic is porous and scratches easily. Scratches and cracks retain germs! Stainless steel bowls won't need to be replaced as often as other types of bowls.

Food and water bowls can be cleaned by hand or in the dishwasher. If washing them by hand, a cleaning with a sponge and some mild dish soap is sufficient. Warm or hot water should be used.

Kitchen brushes, sponges, and steel wool pads can be used to remove food residue. Be careful not to scrub too vigorously, as that can leave scratches on the inside of bowls. Crevices are wonderful places for bacteria to hide!

Rinsing is extremely important when washing by hand. If the bowls are not rinsed well enough, your cats will be able to smell or taste the dish soap after the bowl is refilled with water -- and may refuse to drink that water! Use a spray nozzle, if available, so that the bowls are thoroughly rinsed, removing all traces of the soap. Use a clean cloth or paper

#### LUCKY KITTIES!

(StreetCats adopted 4/16/12 through 9/30/12 and their new families)

Ben — J. Hargrow Betsy – C. Cather Bonnie & Clyde – S. Lamb Chester – J. Smithen Chloe – Rose Chown DiNozzo & Gibbs – Khalin Higgins Fanny & Frankie – A. Longoria Flossie (Squirrel) & Whiskey – D. Dernovish Flower – P. Henderson Fonzie – M. Weckherlin Freddie – E. Nilles Jasmine – P. Easley Jasper – D. Pressel Kate – C. Wilson KitKat – S. Robb Lanny – B. Gray Mia – L & S Stockley Myrtle – A. Cluck Oliver & Otis – C. Burrows Sallie – S. Winchester Snow White – C. Hughes Stormy – C. Colston Sunshine – M. Fry Sweetie – S. Cox Ziggy – J. Hand towel to dry the bowls after they are rinsed.

If the dishwasher is used, be sure that the detergent doesn't contain ingredients harmful to pets. Seventh Generation is a biodegradable and non-toxic detergent and can be found in most grocery stores. There are other "green" and pet-friendly dish detergents available, also.

Hair and dust easily collect on top of drinking water, so it is important that water bowls be completely emptied and then refilled with fresh water at least once each day. A slimy residue may appear if bowls are not thoroughly cleaned.

Some owners who feed dry food to their cats will leave the same bowl down and refill it as needed. That is an excellent way to attract bugs or mice in the feeding area and creates a situation where crumbs and stale food will stay in the bowl for days or even weeks! Place only a small amount of dry food in the bowl, and then throw out whatever is not eaten. Use a clean dish for every meal, whether the food is dry or canned.

Be sure to keep the feeding area clean, wiping up any water and food spills as soon as possible so that insects and rodents don't show up to enjoy what your pet has left behind.

We love our cats and want them to be healthy, so let's show them the same consideration we show our human family members. We don't expect the people we live with (and cook for) to eat from the same dirty plates and drink from the same dirty glasses day after day! Let's put forth that extra effort for our feline family members (because most of us do consider our cats to be family). Keep their bowls CLEAN, and fill those bowls with FRESH food and water every day. Don't our kitties deserve that much? Of course they do!

## **OUR WISH LIST**

For StreetCats: Wal-Mart/Sam's gift cards in any denomination Tall kitchen trash bags Liquid laundry detergent or detergent pods Clorox liquid bleach Clorox Clean-Up spray Postage stamps Cat food — canned & dry Bottled water Toilet paper Printer/copy paper HP02 ink Cartridges black and colors Liquid-Plumr Dryer sheets Paper towels

Don't forget the wish list for Meals on Wheels: Scoopable Litter Unopened dry cat food Canned cat food

#### SPECIAL DELIVERY

Following is a recent conversation between Heffti (an 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  year old brown striped tabby cat) and Jandra (the woman he adopted many years ago).

**Jandra:** Heffti, do you remember when we talked about adopting Chester from StreetCats? I was afraid you wouldn't want to give up your "only child" status, but then you reminded me that you yourself had been a rescue kitty.

**Heffti:** Yes, I was really excited when you first told me I was getting a brother. I would have a little buddy to chase around and play games with! I had no idea you would bring home a fat red-haired kid with a missing arm.

Jandra: I have to admit, I was concerned because he was weight-challenged and three-legged.

Heffti: And grumpy! Don't forget grumpy!

Jandra: What were your first thoughts when I brought your new baby brother home that morning?

**Heffti:** I remember thinking, "Whoa, somebody call Jenny Craig immediately!" That kid was as wide as he was long. I wondered if he would beep when he backed up!

Jandra: Seriously, what do you remember? What was your first impression of Chester?

**Heffti:** Okay, seriously. I remember seeing a confused, scared, lonely guy. Somebody who needed a big hug and reassurance that he was safe and that he'd finally found his "fur-ever" home.

**Jandra:** That's right. We have no idea how many homes Chester had been in already. Obviously, somebody didn't want him or couldn't keep him, because they abandoned him at StreetCats. Then he had to have his right arm completely removed!

**Heffti:** Yeah, he stayed in foster care while he recovered from his surgery, and then he moved into StreetCats. Word on the street is that Mr. Grumpy wasn't popular with the other cats at the group home!

Jandra: Well, I'm glad you don't call him "Mr. Grumpy" anymore. As I recall, you had some not-so-nice names for your new brother when he first came to live with us. You called him "Pester" instead of "Chester." And "Wide Load" and "Redheaded Step-child."

**Heffti:** Aw, Mom, I was just breaking him in. I wanted to be sure he could hang with a tough guy like me! We get along great now.

**Jandra:** You do get along well. Heffti, I'm proud of you for being so generous. You two share litter boxes and toys and beds and water bowls ...

**Heffti:** But not our food bowls! We don't even have the same taste in food. I never heard of a boy cat who liked paté. What a sissy! Real guys eat grilled & sliced.

Jandra: Anyway, I am always amazed at the way "special needs" pets adapt. Chester plays with you and runs and jumps. He tries to do everything you do.

Heffti: Well, he'll never make it to the top level of our cat tower! But I will give the guy credit. He doesn't let his missing



Chester

right arm keep him from doing things. Just don't give him a typing test! Jandra: I wish more people wanting to adopt a cat would consider "special needs" pets like Chester. Just because a kitty is blind or deaf or three-legged doesn't mean he or she won't be a wonderful pet. And elderly cats can make great companions!

Heffti: I'm special, too, Mom. I have special needs.

**Jandra:** You're especially needy! You need extra attention, extra food. But yes, both you and your brother Chester are special in your own ways.

**Heffti:** Yeah, Chester is a pretty good kid. I should be nicer to him. Maybe someday I will! **Jandra:** Heffti ...

**Heffti:** Just kidding, Mom. I'm glad StreetCats brought me and Chester together. I can't call him my "right-hand man" because he doesn't have a right hand, but he is definitely my best buddy!

## New Embroidered StreetCats Logo Clothing and Gifts in the Boutique!





## STREETCATS, INC.

6520 E. 60TH ST. Tulsa, OK 74145 (918) 298-0104 www.streetcatstulsa.org E-mail: cats@streetcatstulsa.org Nonprofit Organization US POSTAGE PAID Tulsa, OK

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## FALL 2012

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

#### WELCOME TO STREETCATS

Don't be frightened little Grey This is a wondrous place to stay We are the lucky ones you see For here we are a family

That Calico had lost her way The Tortie cried for many days The Black who seems so very bold Has a story that can't be told

And though it's not your Forever home From here you will not want to roam For all the humans here you find Have so much love and are so kind

So please be patient, live and learn Until the day it is your turn And then like me you'll have no sorrow You see, I'm going home tomorrow

> Judy Loyd 9/2012