

MAIL: 571 County Rt 2
Accord, NY 12404

SHELTER:
363 Bone Hollow Rd,
Accord, NY 12404

P R O J E C T



Project Cat is a nonprofit tax-deductible organization

Feline Community Assistance
Rescue and Adoptions
Behavioral Consulting

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Spring 2005

Dear Project Cat Supporter:

Our big news this Spring is that on 1 March we moved our shelter to a new location.

Project Cat found it necessary to leave its home of the past three years, and now we and all the feline boarders reside in a cottage at 363 Bone Hollow Rd in Accord. Our new home is beyond wonderful. The setting is a woodland with gardens all around and a pond. The cottage is bright and sunny with lots of windows in which the cats can sun themselves while they listen to the frogs and the birds and classical music.

How did we end up so lucky? In addition to all the hard work that Project Cat does to raise money to keep the shelter running, we also often have to rely on serendipity and the philosophy that good people who do good deeds often find each other.

In the midst of searching for a new home, I received a call from a woman by the name of Vita Shapiro who adopted a cat from us 3 years ago. It seems a stray cat showed up at her house and it wouldn't leave. Despite having a flea collar on (although he wasn't neutered!) she was unable to find an owner. Unable to take the cat into our shelter, I helped to obtain veterinary care and neutering for the cat as long as it could remain at her place. During the course of our conversations, she learned that we were desperately seeking a new home. Coincidentally, she had a cottage on her property that was not currently in use. And she offered us the use of it for 6 months! So "Arnie" became the first cat to move into the new shelter.

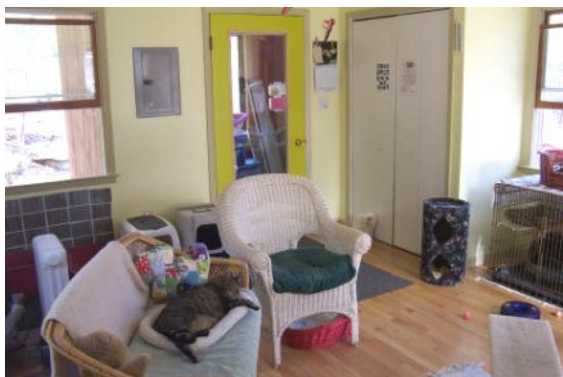
After much cleaning and painting and planning, a crowd of hardy volunteers helped to pack up all our belongings and all the cats one by one and move everything to our new home. I believe because of the tranquility of the property and the spiritual goodwill of Vita, the property owner, the cats settled into their home very quickly with very little stress.



Project Cat's new home



*Arnie enjoys his new "digs"
....and yes, he found a
home of his own!*



The main "lounging" room



They all take turns using the sunroom



Yes, the cats all look comfy and happy in their new digs, but that doesn't mean they don't need homes, because they cannot stay here forever! Calls come in every day asking us to take in stray cats or owned cats that people can no longer keep or no longer want. So that we can keep helping people and cats, we must move the resident cats out to permanent homes. For every cat in the shelter there are at least ten more waiting to come in.



Sam takes a break from the stresses of the day

We would love to stay in our new home and to continue operating Project Cat from this paradise. But we cannot continue on in a temporary shelter. We must find the ways and means to obtain a permanent place of our own.



Wintergreen and Teaberry try out a new bed

Our Third Annual Silent Auction will be held on Saturday 21 May, just around the corner! (see the enclosed flyer) We hope to raise enough money to keep the shelter going throughout the summer. We hope that all of you can attend and find some wonderful and useful items to purchase while helping us raise money. Local businesses and individuals have been so generous in donating to our cause. Please make it a worthwhile event by attending and showing your support for our work. ***If you cannot attend please consider sending a donation. Or adopting a cat!***

A Special Silent Auction Donation

Vita Shapiro, Licensed Massage Therapist with 25 years experience, is offering ***two packages of 20 one-hour massages*** for a minimum bid of \$30 per massage. ***By bidding on one package of certificates (at \$600) you will cover the cost of neutering, leukemia testing, and vaccinating 20 cats!*** You can choose relaxing or therapeutic massage. If you don't want to use them all yourself, you can present them as gifts to friends or family.

For the massage connoisseur this is a fabulous deal. You can feel good both from the massage and knowing that you have directly helped to provide necessary medical care for 20 homeless shelter cats.



This could be you after your massage session!

The Tip of the Tale at Project Cat

We don't have the time to tell you about all of the adventures that unfold at our shelter, and although they don't all have happy endings, we have chosen the following success stories to share with you.

Nora's Story: Nora came to our shelter February 2003. She was part of an outdoor group



of cats that had not been spayed and kept reproducing. Her latest litter of kittens was now 6 months old and they were adopted quickly. Nora was 3 yrs old and very timid with other cats.

The people who had been feeding her said she would always wait until the other cats were done eating before she would creep up to the dish to eat. She was this way in the shelter also. She responded well to humans and loved to be petted, but because there were always other cats around she tended to be a wall flower.

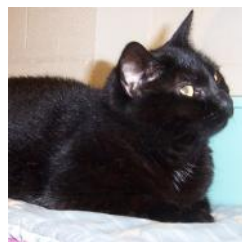
Potential adopters overlooked her because of her shyness and the fact that she was black, very plain in some people's eyes. I had a fondness for this underdog of a cat, and wondered if anyone would ever adopt her.

After almost 2 yrs in the shelter, I received call from a woman in Albany who had seen Nora's picture in an adoption advertisement. Her cat had recently died. She wasn't actively looking for another cat, but her heart went out to Nora having been in the shelter for so long.

I didn't get my hopes up because people have come to the shelter before wanting to adopt a "hard to adopt" cat, only to leave with a much more "desirable" cat.

But Anna visited the shelter, and despite Nora's timidity and fussiness that day, she decided to give her a try. She was very patient with Nora and let her come out and explore her house at her own pace.

When I spoke with Anna several weeks later, Nora had made much progress and was coming out of her shell and enjoying her newly found home. I was practically in tears, because I thought Anna was a special person who made a long trip for one plain black, middle aged cat and gave her a new life.



How You Can Help Support Project Cat



1. **Become a member.** By committing to a yearly membership donation of \$30 you can help ensure the financial stability we need to successfully make it through each year.
2. **Make a donation** above and beyond the membership fee. Does your employer offer a matching gift grant? Find out and instantly double your donation!!
3. **Tell everyone about us.** Encourage friends and family to adopt cats from us.
4. **Educate people** about keeping their cats indoors. Visit www.abcbirds.org to learn about the *Cats Indoors! Campaign*.
5. **Volunteer! Call us and tell us you want to help!** No skill is too small.
6. **Are you a grant writer** or do you know someone who is and can help us obtain funding?
7. **Encourage everyone to alter their cat** (or dog); refer them to a low-cost spay/neuter clinic.
8. **Help out with fundraising events.**
9. **Volunteer to be a foster home** for mother cats and kittens when our shelter is filled.
10. **Don't stop caring and helping others *no matter what species it is!***

The Amazing Whitfield Cats: Last October, driving a back road I travel every day, I noticed a small cat at the side of the wooded road. When I stopped and got out of the car, she came to me very quickly, crying. I picked her up, and despite her nervousness, she purred and rubbed her body against me. So to the shelter we went where she ate ravenously.

An hour later, now dark and traveling the same road, but 1/4 mile away, I spied another cat, similar in size and appearance. Again, I got out of the car, and with a few encouraging “pspspsps” this one came to me, obviously relieved to have found a friend. These cats were 6 months old and obviously sisters. Back to the shelter I went.

Two days later, I received a call from a friend who said a young cat showed up at her door crying to get in. This was 1 mile away from where I found the others. Sure enough, when she brought it to the shelter, it was obviously a brother to the others.

They all were thin and very hungry. They also had uncontrollable diarrhea. It took 2 months of several different kinds of drugs to treat for intestinal parasites before they started to have normal bowel movements.

Finally healthy, they were spayed and neutered and eventually Weasel, Pinky, and Molet were all placed in good homes.

Fast forward to April 2005. Again traveling this same road after dark, a cat at the side of the road quickly attracted my attention. I thought, “Oh my goodness, that’s Molet!” but that being impossible, my second thought was “That’s another brother to the Whitfield Cats!” It took about 15 minutes to encourage him to come to me (food helped) but there was no doubt that this now 1 year old cat was a brother to the others who had somehow managed to survive the winter. Same body type, same looks, same personality, even the same severe intestinal problems.

These cats were most certainly abandoned on a back road by someone who did not want them. Did that person attempt to find a home for them or get them into a shelter? We have no way of knowing.

“Whitfield 4” as he is currently known, is overcoming his intestinal problems and will soon go up for adoption. I can only hope that there are no more siblings out there that we did not find.



Weasel



Pinky



Molet



Whitfield 4

Wish List

Cat Food (dry and canned)	Printer Paper/White and Colored (Ink Jet)
World’s Best Cat Litter (the only one we use)	Printer Ink (black and color for HP OfficeJet K80)
Laundry Soap	Mailing Envelopes (business and personal size)
Dish Soap	Laptop Computer
Paper Towels	Plumber to do minor repairs
Track lighting (6 tracks)	Volunteer carpenter to build climbing posts

If you can’t make it to the shelter, donated items can be dropped off at

Lucas Avenue Pet Supply or Accord Feeds and Needs

~ Thank you Glen and Ed ~