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Accord, NY 12404

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PROJECT



Project Cat is a nonprofit tax-deductible organization

Feline Community Assistance
Rescue and Adoptions
Behavioral Consulting

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Spring 2004



Dear Project Cat Supporter:

What started out as a Winter letter of appeals turned into a Spring letter, because it has been a busy winter trying to keep up with all the cats that so urgently needed our help. For 2 years we have struggled to keep the organization alive and doing what we set out to do: to alleviate the suffering of and offer care and shelter to the innumerable numbers of cats that end up homeless through abandonment, neglect, callousness, and ignorance, and to ultimately find permanent, caring homes for them. ***We have been able to carry on our mission only through the continued support of concerned individuals like you.***

As we enter our third and pivotal year of existence, we are again reaching out to you for your support. If you cannot afford a large donation don't think that it is not worth giving - please consider that if each person who receives this letter sends just \$10, Project Cat would raise \$7,000 just from this mailing! And there are many of you whom we hope will contribute more.

Alex Horowitz of High Falls, a dedicated supporter of Project Cat, has offered a \$5,000 matching gift pledge. So each dollar that you donate will automatically double (up to \$5,000) enabling us to raise at least \$10,000! So far we have raised \$1,800 towards this matching gift. Please help us reach (and exceed) our goal.

Please continue reading to learn more about what we have been up to, our accomplishments, our goals, upcoming fundraisers, and the many ways that you can help to support our organization. We hope that you will help us out in whatever way you can so that we can continue our mission and perform what we think is very important work - and we hope that you also will think it is important.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gail Mihocko'.

Gail Mihocko
Director

Overview of 2003

We held 3 major fundraisers during summer 2003: Memorial Day and Labor Day tag sales, and our first Silent Auction in June. All were a huge success (and a lot of work!) and together garnished over \$13,000 for Project Cat. We raised almost \$40,000 during 2003, thereby meeting our goal.

Despite our extensive efforts, and the efforts of other rescue groups in the area, the need to assist with the problem of homeless and stray cat never ends or indeed rarely slows down. During 2003, we received 400 phone calls requesting assistance for 921 cats!!

- We accepted 112 cats and kittens into our shelter
- We adopted 110 cats and kittens into responsible homes
- We assisted 54 people/families through our Community Outreach Program and provided spaying or neutering and medical treatment for 216 cats

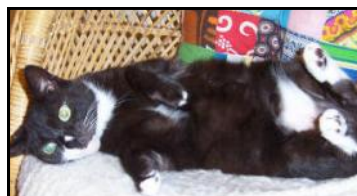
As you can see, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done.

Upcoming Fundraisers

- Our 2003 Summer Solstice Silent Auction was a great success and we will be having another one. The next silent auction will take place on Saturday 19 June at the Marbletown Community Center in Stone Ridge. Watch for your invitation in the mail. ***If you would like to volunteer your time or donate an item or service to be auctioned, please contact us by phone or e-mail.***

- We also plan on having another Labor Day Tag Sale at the High Falls Fire Station (however not a Memorial Day Sale due to lack of time). Watch for flyers advertising this event. ***Please contact us if you have good, clean items to donate.***

If you have an idea for and would like to help organize a fundraising event for Project Cat, please contact us with the information. We would be most grateful.



Goals for 2004

Our goal for 2004 is to raise \$75,000. It sounds like a daunting task but we persevered last year, and succeeded!

- Additional money will allow us to reach out to many more people, to fund more spaying and neutering, and provide more necessary medical care.
- We hope to purchase a small building to use as an isolation ward for sick, infectious cats while they recover.
- We desperately need an assistant to help with office, shelter, and field work.
- A successful fundraising track record will give us more credential to seek out and obtain grants.
- Of extreme importance also, is to be involved with legislative proposals to enact laws requiring mandatory spaying and neutering of all cats and to control the number of free-roaming, stray cats.

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.



Hannaford: Just 6 weeks old, he was wrapped in a towel and abandoned at the pharmacy counter in the grocery store. He was a pitiful sight - emaciated, dehydrated, full of intestinal parasites, and very bad conjunctivitis.

For 2 weeks he did nothing but sleep on a heating pad while he was syringe fed, given subcutaneous fluids, and treated for all of his parasites. To our amazement he pulled through and turned into a bouncing, rambunctious kitten. He had many admirers who wanted to adopt him, but we carefully chose the right home and he was adopted along with Carlee, one of our adult cats. A perfect match.



Martha and the Vegetables: Martha was abandoned when people moved away and left many cats behind. The neighbors tried to catch all the cats that they saw running around and called us to help catch and shelter them.

By the third day they noticed a cat crying outside the empty house. They broke into the house and uncovered a litter of 4 one-week old kittens inside a rolled up carpet. They housed Martha and her kittens in a towel-lined bathtub until we could pick them up. The tiny kittens were starving and their ribs were showing. They managed to survive for 3 days without their mother. We put them in a foster home where they nursed nonstop until their bellies began to plump out and their ribs began to disappear.

Martha was a bobtail and turned out to be one of the friendliest cats on earth and her kittens grew up to be healthy and sweet. Three of the kittens were tailless and they looked like little root vegetables bobbing around the shelter - so they were all named after vegetables - hence the name!

Eventually all were adopted to wonderful homes. Martha and her kits owe their good fortune to the concerned neighbors who cared enough to intervene, and to the generous foster home who cared for them until they were old enough to be put up for adoption.

It is impossible to fully thank all the volunteers for all they do to keep Project Cat going. But "THANK YOU EVERYONE - your dedication and caring makes a difference."

Amy Albert
Kathy Anderson
Scott Barra
Christine Bates
Jillian Brown
Sue Bunting
Lucy Cirincione
Susan Clarke
Claire Cohoe
Kasey Craig

Myra Damsky
Lisa Elarde
Deborah Exum
Debi Frazzetta
Lois Frazzetta
Rosemarie Frizone
Kim Gerosa
Lauren Greer
Jennifer Hauer
Dorothy Horwitz

Chrissi Jones
Beth King
Roberta Lavoie
Dawn Markle
Patricia McCauley
Carolyn Milberg
Donna Miller
Barbara Mulkowsky
Elizabeth Norment
Kate Norment

Elinor Olds
Nancy Purdum
Lily Rothman
Kayli Sherman
Jill Spero
Rebekah Underhill
Pat Valusek
Nancy Van Leuven
Marta Waterman

Cats and Cows



We presented a proposal to the Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch, and offered to help them with the recurring problem of too many cats at their dairy farm.

Over a period of 7 months we collected 26 cats and kittens - some friendly, some feral. All were tested for leukemia, sterilized, vaccinated for rabies and distemper, and treated for a variety of parasites. The farm now has a healthy, non-breeding population of barn cats to help with rodent control. The cats are cared for and provide companionship for the inmates and corrections officers who work there.

Working farms are known dumping grounds for cats and kittens. Although most farms welcome some cats, they usually don't want more than they already have. Healthy, sterilized cats have a higher quality of life, are more efficient mousers, and being vaccinated helps eliminate the potential spread of rabies and reduces the risk of other disease transmissions.

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!***



Wish List



Cat Food (dry and canned)
World's Best Cat Litter (it's the only one we use)
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap
Paper Towels
Printer Paper/White and Colored (Ink Jet)
Printer Ink (black and color for HP OfficeJet K80)
Mailing Envelopes (business and personal size)
Laptop Computer
Countertop refrigerator for storing medicines and vaccines
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 ~*