

The Tale of the Cat

Fall 2003



A Message From Our Founder

Thanks to the wonderful help of our dedicated volunteer force and generous donors like you, I am pleased to report that at our midyear point (end of June 2003) we were successful in accomplishing the following milestones:

- rescuing 323 abandoned, homeless, injured and/or ill kitties
- spaying/neutering 272 who were still fertile through our veterinarian network
- adopting out 144
- testing and/or medically treating 103 for individual illnesses &/or injuries
- releasing 53 back to their respective colonies & colony caregivers

Sadly, however, we lost 26 of them who unfortunately died of irreversible illness or injury or were prematurely euthanized if tested positive for feline leukemia or feline AIDS due to lack of special needs foster or adoptive homes. These feline friends were therefore spared a protracted and painful death in the wilderness or out on the homeless, uncaring streets of our communities.

When running the math, what the above numbers reflect, since we are strictly a no-kill

organization, is a significant shortfall of loving homes between those rescued in relation to those placed or adopted out. The obvious result has been an overcrowded shelter and the premature releasing of otherwise adoptable kitties back to their outdoor colonies to live out the life of a colony cat or lifetime resident of the shelter.

The overcrowding has led to other pitfalls. In July, there unfortunately was an outbreak of distemper which claimed the lives of 58 cats and kittens... more kittens than the full grown cats since their resistance was not as good as the older population's. Fortunately, through these horrendous weeks of continuous loss and sadness, our volunteer force rallied to provide day and night coverage for the necessary medicating, administering fluids, force feeding, cleaning cages, etc., etc. to ease the kitties' pain and suffering. There was someone there from 5A.M. until 2A.M. everyday and through the night. These dedicated "angels" certainly earned their wings as "Florence Nightingale's" in our book!! Unfortunately, however, it wasn't enough for the 58 that we lost.

We have included an informative article in this issue of our newsletter about the distemper virus (on page 4) and close with a dedication to those whose time with us was

short lived. They will never be forgotten for their brave efforts to survive this ugly and destructive disease.

In the Loss of a Pet

There must be a heaven for the animal friends we love. They are not human, yet they bring out our own humanity... sometimes in ways that people cannot. They do not worry about fame or fortune... instead, they bring our hearts nearer to the joy of simple things. Each day they teach us little lessons in trust and steadfast affection. Whatever heaven may be, there's surely a place in it for friends as good as these.

Author Unknown

After taking the necessary precautions to disinfect the entire shelter and all its contents, we will end our quarantine and look forward to picking up where we left off and continuing to fulfill our mission of finding loving homes for those who touch our lives so deeply if for but a very brief time. Losing these little ones has been devastating. We grieve their loss but trust that they are in a much 'better place'.

I humbly thank you for your continued support during this time of such crisis.

Inga

Inga Hanley, President and Founder

'Labor of Love' on Labor Day weekend

Thankfully there was quite a crew of volunteers who gave up their Labor Day weekend to come in to help disinfect the shelter top to bottom from the ravages of the distemper outbreak in July that claimed 58 precious lives.

This was truly a call for a "labor of love" on Labor Day weekend as the shelter celebrated the hopeful end of the ravaging

outbreak. Our thanks go out to all of them who signed up for whatever time frame their schedules and stamina allowed. The reward for them reportedly was in helping the many survivor kitties still hoping to be adopted.

In addition to all this wonderful hands on help there has been a tremendous outpouring of donations of money,

extra kitty food and much needed cleaning supplies. We sincerely thank you for all these efforts on behalf of the kitties during this crisis!



Bill's our "main man" when it comes to catching and calming the feral cats.



Pizza Party! Volunteers stop work to enjoy pizza and soft drinks.



All baskets, beds, etc. were disinfected.

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Cat Chat - Talking with Ron Heller, D.V.M.

By Mary Inglis

When you enter Ron Heller's small animal practice, you are greeted by Parker, the parrot, two cockatiels (one is named Grumpy), and two parakeets. Right away, you get the feeling that you are in the presence of a real animal lover. And you are right.

As a boy on Long Island, Ron Heller enjoyed raising a cat, fish, and turtles. His mom wouldn't let him have a dog, because when she lost her dog, it was painful. She wanted to spare her children that pain of loss. However, his mother did own a spider monkey for a time. Dr. Heller remembers coming home and seeing his mother ironing with a spider monkey on her arm. He attributes his love of animals to his role models, his mother and father. "I have been blessed by them who have backed me in good times and bad," Heller said.

Dr. Heller worked in practices when he was in high school because he liked animals. It was this inherent love of animals which caused him to become a vet. "The greatest reward in my job is to help animals, to heal a sick animal, also to help the people in a small animal practice. These animals become an extra member of the family. Some people want to have 'that extra kid.' It's not only to help the pet, but the people," Heller said.

He loves cats because they all have their individual personalities. "Some are sweet, some are cranky, some are shy, some are hyperactive," Heller said, "just like people."

His philosophy of animal welfare? "As a vet, we are advocates for the pet. We are thinking what is good for the individual pet. You must take the interests of the client as well. You must treat {each pet} as individuals."

Heller remembers coming home when his kids were little and comparing his kids to the animals. "On a psychological realm, animals want attention, just like kids. Busy mothers are like new owners-sometimes they try to pacify the kids with TV or a pacifier. The new puppy or kitten wants you to be there. That's why I am against chewy toys if they are used as pacifiers, because the animal will look for something more challenging. It is only meaningful if it is used in an owner-pet-object situation.," Heller said. He also said that it was important for parents to teach children about caring for animals so that children learn and get an appreciation for the sanctity of life.

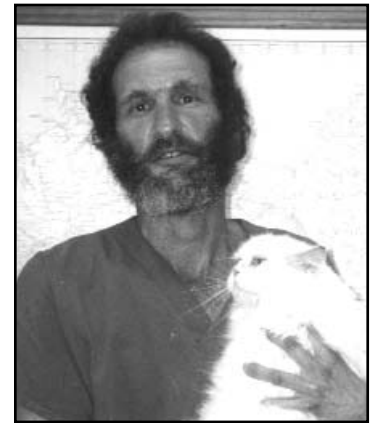
With the number of homeless animals on the rise, Heller feels the best way to get the word out is advertising in the newspaper and TV media, neighborhood clinics and grocery stores. He admires the work of people who are dedicated to finding homes for rescued and abandoned pets. His hardest case to treat was years ago when he was a new veterinarian. Clients wanted him to put down their dog, who, though in need of medication, would have been a good pet for the right home. But the owners didn't want anyone else to have their animal, and they trusted Dr.

Heller to do what they asked. "They didn't want anyone else to have him," Heller said. "It was selfish."

Advice for people who want to adopt an animal into their lifestyle?

"Be aware of what's involved-it's like adopting a child. The demands are there. You've got to spend some time with them. You can't stick {kids} in front of the computer all day and expect results. It's an individual thing. Take into consideration your lifestyle and how much attention you are willing to give your new pet. In certain instances, you're better off having a hamster-or a python."

Dr. Heller is a friend to Adopt A Cat Foundation. His practice is located at 940 Park Ave., Lake Park, 33403 848-5062.



Making a world of difference. Dr. Ron Heller holds his cat Montana after a hard day's work.

ADOPTIONS

**Cats & Kittens - Every Saturday & Sunday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Pet Supplies Plus
1258 Northlake Blvd., Lake Park
(in the K Mart Plaza beside Staples)**



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Lucky Cat Fundraiser Raffle Underway

The 4th Annual Lucky Cat raffle kick off took place on July 10th at Duffy's Sports Restaurant. The annual raffle is the primary fundraising event for the shelter, and this year's raffle is set apart by a vigorous and extended campaign to achieve a minimum goal for the shelter.

Volunteers are embarking on an all out campaign to raise at least \$15,000 for the kitties at the Adopt A Cat shelter.

There are also some lovely prize rewards -- three chances to win \$500. In fact, you could win up to \$1500!

More important than the prizes are the funds that result from this project. The funds for the shelter are substantially depleted and the proceeds from the raffle are needed desperately to sustain the costs of a no kill shelter: medicine, food and a clean healthy environment. This year the shelter is operating at maximum capacity and donations have been insufficient to fully support the needs of all the cats. How can we continue to care for the kitties that will be at the shelter forever?

We ask that you will help!

Join us by participating in the raffle

and volunteering your services and love.

Call project co chairs *Maira Metzger 561-775-1698*, *Maryanne Nawoczinski 561-626-9030*, or *Marty Sturmer 561-694-1903* for information about tickets or participating in the raffle campaign.

We need you!

Lucky Cat Raffle

6 chances per \$25.00 donation!

\$500 - 1st Prize

\$500 - 2nd Prize

\$500 - 3rd Prize

Drawing Saturday night, Oct. 25, 2003 at:

Bianca's Restaurant, Seminole Plaza,
13205 US Hwy 1, Juno Beach

Buy your tickets now before it is too late.

Dinner/Dance

Saturday, October 25, 2003

Happy Hour - 6:00 P.M., Dinner - 7:00 P.M.

@ Bianca's Restaurant (see Lucky Cat Raffle) \$40 per person - includes tax & tip (\$22 is tax-deductible donation)

Dinner will include soup or salad, coffee, dessert, and one of the following: Snapper Francaise, Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana, or Lasagna.

Tickets available at:

Adopt a Cat Foundation - 1125 Old Dixie Hwy, Lake Park - 848-4911

Promenade Animal Hospital - 9850 Alt. A1A, Palm Beach Gardens - 627-8888

Gardens Animal Hospital - 4290 Northlake Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens - 622-6300

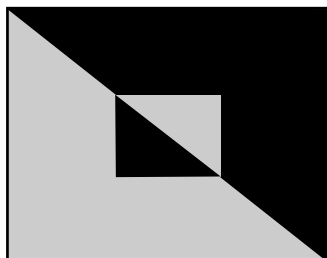
Please join us for a good time. Don't feel like eating? Dinner is not required. Just come on down and have some fun.

Plant & Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 18th - 9am - 2pm. in front of Pets Supplies Plus (K Mart Plaza) on Northlake Blvd. in Lake Park.

Bridge Tournament

Adopt A Cat Foundation presents the 4th Annual Buffet Luncheon and Best of Bridge Tournament on Friday, January 23, 2004 at 11:30am at Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach. Duplicate and Chicago Games, Buffet Luncheon, Silent Auction, Dollar Prizes. Tickets are \$125. Chairperson: Jean Gross. Call 561-278-6878.



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Please call for details.

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"Lucky Cat" Corner

It could happen to you!

You're on vacation or a business trip and a stray kitty is hanging out on the hotel property. What would you do?

Thanks to a little research behind the scenes and the successful effort to lure the stray kitty in with some food one of our AAC members who encountered such a situation at a Holiday Inn in Virginia was successful in taking the kitty to a local vet to be tested, neutered, vaccinated, etc. so that the kitty could then go live in the caring home of one of the hotel's housekeepers who'd been feeding him daily and hiding him out in the laundry room over night. Since her funds were obviously short but her heart just as obviously long on love for this kitty the AAC member paid the bill to a vet who gave him a significant discount, knowing that it was a special situation. So thankfully a match was made in heaven that day for both the housekeeper and the kitty whose name is now "Holiday".... and word has it that every day is Christmas for him now!... thanks to the extra effort of just another nameless good Samaritan..... like maybe you or me?

So next time you see a stray kitty, be

it near or far from home, we hope that you will make it a 'holiday' experience as well! The 'reward' could be a 'gift' that you unknowingly give yourself. After all, there's nothing in this world like the 'gift of love' even though it may come in strange and unexpected 'packages'.

Happy 'Holidays' to you and you and you!



Love me, feed me, take me home!



Scrounging for a meal!

Many Thanks To...

Maureen Volker, Colledgeville, PA
 Lucy Olsen, Lake Forest, IL
 Betty Bennett, Norfolk, VA
 Elizabeth Olbrich, Durham, NC
 Molly Saia, Millersville, MD
 John & Priscilla Butterfield, Richland, WA
 Frank & Rhonda Ambrosio, Stuart, FL
 Gus Lesnevich, Malvern, PA
 Noelle Smith, Juno Beach, FL
 Toni Kay Smith, Anacortes, WA
 Peter & Sheila Rennick, North Palm Beach, FL
 John Tomlinson, Miami, FL
 Joyce Coffin, Palm Beach, FL
 Norma Allen, Palm Beach, FL
 Margery Brown, WPB, FL
 Susan & Louis Flournoy, Jupiter, FL
 Fred Crissman, PBG, FL
 Animal Support Kindess & Kinship, Palm Beach, FL
 Irene Tibbetts, Jupiter, FL
 Gregory & Karen Weiss, NY, NY
 Joan Hill, Riviera Beach, FL
and many more too numerous to mention. Thank you all for your support and for caring!



I wish to become a Friend of The Adopt A Cat Foundation!

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ (Please make checks payable to Adopt A Cat) Please remove me from your mailing list

Friend - \$50.00 per year Business - \$100.00 per year

Name _____

Mrs. Ms. Miss Mr. Dr. Other: _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Home E-mail _____ Work E-mail _____

I am enclosing my business card.

Please check if you wish to be listed as anonymous.

News to Share:

Adopt A Cat Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Corporation.

Please return to Adopt A Cat Foundation, Inc. • 1125 Old Dixie Hwy., #8 • Lake Park, FL 33403

All gifts are taxable as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by law.



Adopt A Cat Foundation

DINNER - DANCE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 25, 2003

Happy Hour - 6 P.M. - Dinner - 7 P.M.

Bianca's Restaurant

Seminole Plaza

13205 US Hwy 1

Juno Beach



EAT OUT



EAT OUT

**\$40 per person – includes tax & tip
(\$22 is tax-deductible donation)**

Dinner includes soup or salad, coffee, dessert, and one of the following:
Snapper Francaise, Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana, or Lasagna

Fun for Everyone!

Live Music

Dance Exhibition

Dance Contest

Raffle

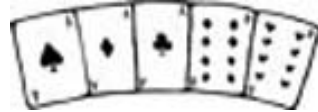


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Promenade Animal Hospital-9850 Alt. A1A, Palm Beach Gardens
Gardens Animal Hospital-4290 Northlake Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens
or from an Adopt A Cat Representative

For more information call 848-4911

FOURTH ANNUAL Best of Bridge Tournament



January 23, 2004 at Mar-A-Lago, Palm Beach



Adopt A Cat Foundation

1125 Old Dixie Hwy. #8, Lake Park, FL 33403
(561) 848-4911 www.adoptacatfoundation.org

LUNCHEON, BRIDGE & SILENT AUCTION

Please join us Friday, January 23, 2004 for lunch and an afternoon of bridge (duplicate or Chicago) and fun. There will be cash prizes and this year's event is at Mar-a-Lago on Palm Beach. Don't play bridge? Just join us for lunch, tour the beautiful mansion (you never know who might be there) and bid on our wonderful, silent auction items. Tickets are \$125.00 per person and tax deductible. For information or tickets call Jean Gross - Chairwoman at 561-278-6878 or Adopt A Cat Foundation: 561-848-4911.

If you would like to make a donation for the silent auction or the Adopt A Cat Foundation, please call Tina Vetter at 561-630-7845. An Adopt A Cat Foundation volunteer will call to make arrangements to pick up your donation, or you may send your donation to Adopt A Cat at the address shown above. This is a charitable, in kind donation.

"A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-453-7354, within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State."

Buying or Selling a Home? Want to Help Adopt A Cat?

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He will donate \$150 at closing to Adopt A Cat Foundation for
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Fax: 561-659-3422
Visit him on the Web www.floralovesyou.com
email: dannydhanu@aol.com

Special Needs

I'm Isabel, a beautiful, sweet tabby kitten (3 months old) with a heart murmur looking for a special forever home. Do have what it takes to adopt me? Call Inga at 848-4911.



Isabel - 3 month old tabby

Facts About Feline Panleukopenia - Feline Distemper

Feline panleukopenia (FP), also known as feline distemper, is a highly contagious viral disease that occurs wherever there are cats. Cats at any age may be stricken. Young kittens, sick cats, and cats that have not been adequately immunized are most susceptible; older cats are more likely to have acquired an immunity and, therefore, are infected less frequently.

Dogs are not susceptible to feline panleukopenia. Canine distemper is a different disease caused by another virus. Neither disease is transmissible to humans.

What Does Panleukopenia Do?

The feline panleukopenia virus is passed from cat to cat by direct contact. The source of infection is most commonly fecal waste from infected cats, but the virus may be present in other body secretions.

A healthy cat can also become infected without coming in direct contact with an infected cat. Bedding, cages, food dishes, and the hands or clothing of handlers that contact infected secretions may harbor and transmit the virus.

The feline panleukopenia virus is very stable. It is resistant to many chemicals and may remain infectious at room temperature for as long as one year.

Feline panleukopenia is a complex disease. It can vary in severity from very mild to extreme. The many signs are not always typical and many owners may even believe that their cat has been poisoned or has swallowed a for-

ign object. Because of this fact, treatment may be delayed or neglected.

After exposure to the virus, many of the cat's white cells are destroyed. This cell loss makes the cat more susceptible to other complications and bacterial infections.

How Can You Tell If a Cat Has Panleukopenia?

The first signs an owner might notice are generalized depression, loss of appetite, high fever, lethargy, vomiting, dehydration, and hanging over the water dish. The course of the disease may be short and explosive. Advanced cases, when discovered, may cause death within hours. Normally, the sickness may go on for three or four days after the first elevation of body temperature.

Fever will fluctuate during the illness and abruptly fall to subnormal levels shortly before death. Other signs in later stages may be diarrhea, anemia, and persistent vomiting.

How is Panleukopenia Treated?

The prognosis for very young kittens is poor. Older cats have greater chance of survival if adequate treatment is provided early in the course of the disease. Treatment is limited to supportive therapy to help the patient gain and retain sufficient strength to combat the virus with its own immune system. There are no antibiotics that can kill the virus.

The veterinarian will attempt to combat extreme dehydration, provide nutrients, and prevent secondary infection with antibiotics.

Prevention and Protection

Vaccines offer the safest protection. They stimulate the cat's body to produce protective antibodies against the virus to prevent infection by natural, disease causing viruses. The vaccines are very effective but are preventive, not curative. They must be administered before the cat is exposed and infected to be effective.

Most young kittens receive their first vaccination between 6 and 10 weeks of age, or as soon as they are taken from their mother. A second vaccination should be given before the age of 12 weeks. Cats over 12 weeks should be given 2 vaccinations three to four weeks apart. Annual booster should be given thereafter.

Precautions: FPV is one of the most resistant viruses. It can remain alive and a source of infection for susceptible cats for as long as a year even after the premises has been cleaned thoroughly. The virus is highly resistant to most disinfectants but is susceptible to Clorox bleach. Recommend 1 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water as the best way to kill the virus.

The best policy to follow is not to introduce susceptible cats onto premises where a cat has had FPV for 3-4 months following an outbreak. DO NOT ALLOW an unvaccinated cat to associate with strange cats. New cats coming onto the premises should be vaccinated at least 2 weeks before their introduction to previously infected premises.



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In Memory of TEDDY

In April, a little fellow named Teddy captured the hearts of everyone who heard his story. Teddy was abused and shot with a gun which left him paralyzed and unable to walk. How lucky for Adopt A Cat to have had the opportunity to try and help this poor little urchin. Inga, our founder, immediately ordered a pair of wheels, and through the donation of volunteer, Maryanne Nawoczenski, Teddy was able to have some mobility to get from room to room.

Teddy—with his wheels—became our shelter's mascot. He loved the attention, and we loved Teddy.

But his life was brief. With complications from his injury, his frail

system just couldn't sustain this little hero.

We lost Teddy. But we have his wheels. And in Teddy's honor, we can pass on these wheels to another little kitty who might just happen to come to Adopt A Cat.



Teddy (with and without his wheels) brought love and joy to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Wish List

We are in need of the following:

- **Volunteers:** especially on weekends to clean (1 day a month) and for fundraising
- **Towels, bedding and blankets**
- **Cleaning supplies:** Clorox clean-up, laundry soap, bleach, paper towels, sponges, etc.
- **Cash donations**
- **Canned cat food**
- **Regular clay cat litter** (non-clumping)
- **Good homes** for our many adoptable cats and kittens
- **Foster homes** for litters until they're old enough to be adopted
- **A cargo van** for transporting cats and kittens to spay/neuter clinics and veterinarians. Transport injured cats. Move trapped cats and feral colonies. Pick-up food & litter.
- **Computer and scanner** for record keeping, web site updates and newsletter.
- **A piece of land** to establish our own kitty sanctuary.

Want to Volunteer? Call 848-4911 today!