



SAFE HAVEN
No-Kill Shelter For Cats

The Scratching Post

October 2010

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Linda and Adam Roycroft

Contact Info:

8431-137 Garvey Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616

919 872-1128
919 872-7730
919 872-7732 fax

info@safehavenforcats.org

www.safehavenforcats.org

<http://www.facebook.com/safehavenforcats>
<http://twitter.com/SafeHaven4Cats>
<http://safehaven4cats.blogspot.com/>

Comments on the Scratching Post? Send ideas and suggestions to cbiond@nc.rr.com.

All About Volunteers

Our **live auction** is fast approaching – **Oct. 9** -- and we need you to be there. Bring your friends and family – it will be a great time!

Yankee Candle sales kits are here!! Everyone loves Yankee Candles, especially us at SAFE Haven, because they are donating 40% of all sales to the shelter. Remember, we have to have all orders back to us by **Oct. 24th**, so come pick up a catalog and start selling!

We're also selling **pasta!** It comes in all different shapes and sizes. Most bags sell for \$6.50-\$7.50 - and we get 40% of the proceeds. The ordering info is all here at the shelter, so while you're picking up your Yankee Candle kit, be sure to grab a pasta kit, too.

Additionally, people who are not in our area can go to our own website and order pasta directly from our site. It's

www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/safehavenforcats. The pasta will be shipped directly to them and we still get 40%! We can take orders until **Nov. 10**.

Also, the **cookbook**. Recipes are coming in very s...l...o...w...l...y. Call the family up in Pittsburgh, Kansas, or Ireland – wherever your family is -- and dig up some recipes for us. Remember to give precise information! Submit recipes to shfcrecipes@yahoo.com by **Oct. 7**.

We've scheduled another **Fill A Truck** event at the Wake Forest WalMart on Saturday **Oct. 30** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will need volunteers to staff the tables as well as help with getting a box truck. Our previous Fill A Truck events have been great successes, and we're hoping this one runs true to form!

The **Mutt Strut** will be held **Nov. 6** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Crowder District Park in Apex. We need people to staff the table and talk about SAFE Haven. There will be a number of other animal organizations there, as well as events to watch.

The **Mistletoe Market Place** is **Nov. 13** from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wake field High School. We will need volunteers to staff the table

and crafters to make items for sale.

Our largest undertaking, the **Carolina Christmas Show**, will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in downtown Raleigh on **Dec. 2 - 5**. We will need a lot of staffing for that length of time, as well as a lot of crafts to sell.

Please note - two of these days are weekdays - let us know if you would be able to help us on Thursday or Friday as those will be our most difficult days to staff!!

Volunteers Extraordinaire!

We continue to recognize volunteers who've been part of the SAFE Haven for Cats family for many years. Here are volunteers who started in 2005 and who are still contributing to the SAFE Haven mission.

*Bradley Armstrong
Patience Armstrong
Marisa Bryant
Itta Bluhn-Chertudi
Tracey Hedgpeh
Tina Joyner
Christy Mabry
Nancy Nemargut
Lisa Roark
Joanne Rutkofske
Nina Wright*

Thank you all for your years of dedication and service!

Live Auction

At
Raleigh Auction & Estate Sales

(4900 Craftsman Dr. #A)

**Saturday, Oct. 9
5 to 9 p.m.**

Fun! Bargains!!

Managing the Waitlist

Managing the SAFE Haven wait list is far more complicated than most of us can imagine – Sherri Orner, Associate Director, calls it an art, not a science.

She points out that there are a number of sources that contribute to the wait list. First, we have cats on our wait list from the general public – people call all the time because they've found or rescued cats and want to take them to a place where they know they'll receive good care and a chance at a better life.

Second, we work with Wake County Animal Control to take cats from there when possible. (Just recently we took five cats who had been abused at a laboratory in Gates County.) Finally, we also try to help our constituents -- the people who help us -- donors, volunteers, long-time rescuers.

As space becomes available at the shelter, we email the folks on the waitlist from the general public to see if they still have the cats they contacted us about, and requesting more information about the cats.

We ask about medical issues, although a medical issue does not preclude us from taking the cat. If the cat sounds like it's really scared, we sometimes tell the rescuer we will have Dr. Pethick evaluate the cat, or we may need to see how the cat adjusts. If the cat can't adjust, we may ask the rescuer to take the cat back. (This doesn't happen often, but there are some feral cats who can't ever get comfortable with human contact.)

We try to get cats from our constituents scheduled in as soon as is reasonably possible. We communicate with them regularly and sometimes ask if they can keep the cat for a bit when things like the hoarding or lab situations pop up.

Returns can't be predicted, of course. Sherri deals with returns individually and tries to schedule them when we have space (usually on Sundays). She

says that she always tries first to find a way to keep the cat in the home.

There isn't a lot we can do about abandonments, and they often affect what happens with the wait list.

Adoptee Update – Caswell!

I'm sure many of you remember Caswell, an abandoned black and white kitty who tried his best to avoid having anybody notice him or try to pet him. Caswell was adopted twice and quickly returned. But then he found his perfect human, Karen Creech! She writes:

"Jessy James (formerly Caswell) is doing wonderfully! He has started 'making biscuits' on my belly on a regular basis, and has meowed 3 times (when I poured his food in his dish). Also, he is now sleeping with me at night (touching me). This is a huge accomplishment because Sammy James (14 year old kitty) and Mikey James (8 year old kitty) also sleep with me. He enjoys Sammy James' company and is working out issues, from time-to-time, with Mikey James, who is currently the "Top Cat". I feel it is only a matter of time before they are best friends.

"When I first brought him home he was very insecure, and would often hide. But each time he did, I would coax him out and hold him in my arms. It has been a little over 2 months and he has made huge progress!

"He is such a wonderful addition to the family. My only wish would have been that Freddy (my kitty who died of cancer April 28th) would have met him. He would have loved him and taken him 'under his wing'. I have to believe that somehow Freddy has been talking to him, because Freddy used to sleep with me just like Jessy is doing now.

"He is absolutely one of the sweetest kitties around. He loves being close to me and my husband and snuggles down into the couch cushions each evening when we get home. When I get up from the couch, Jessy snuggles with my husband, and when my husband gets up from the couch, Jessy snuggles with me. He is so affectionate!

"This morning he meowed at me several times while I was putting on my makeup. He just wants to be loved on – have his head rubbed, get kisses and head-butts from me. (He has started sitting ON my feet in the morning while I put on my make up. Total lovebug!)

"Jessy crawls up in my lap and 'head butts' me if I am eating anything, especially ice cream. He also loves Laughing Cow cheese, and comes to me when I call him. He even loves to have his belly rubbed.

"Last Saturday night Jessy walked out on our screened in porch *all by himself!* (I was hoping he would eventually explore out there since it is so nice.)

He makes strides each day. It is really *(continued on page 4)*

All in all, managing the wait list is a delicate balancing act, and sometimes handling emergencies means cats at the top of the list may end up waiting just a little longer.



Sad Caswell when he was abandoned at the shelter. Look at the new picture of him on page 4!

ASK THE VET ... *About Cat Scratch Disease*

by Betsy Pethick, D.V.M.

Cat scratch disease (CSD) is an ailment that affects humans and is caused by a type of bartonella bacteria. It is believed to be transmitted primarily by cat scratches and bites, but other vectors or animal sources may also be involved. Some researchers prefer the more inclusive term bartonellosis for this reason.

Cats acquire the bartonella organism through flea bites. In warm, humid climates like NC, up to 60% of cats have bartonella antibodies. The extent

Adoptee Update – Wrangler!

Betsy Hord adopted Wrangler last December. She writes, “Just wanted to let everyone know how happy Chad and I are that we adopted Wrangler on December 18. It was very difficult to pick just one cat out of all the wonderful cats there but Wrangler just really made an impression on both of us.

“He and our other cat Toby are getting along great. He is such a great cat!! Please let whoever rescued him from Franklin County and fostered him know what a great job and wonderful thing they did for him.

I told Chad that Wrangler is a very lucky cat and Chad said we are the lucky ones to have him as a part of our family and I totally agree.”



Wrangler found his forever home!

to which bartonella causes disease in cats has not yet been determined. At this point, it appears that most cats experience a very transient illness such as mild fever.

CSD is caused by Bartonella henselae (B. henselae). About 2 to 3 weeks after becoming infected, lymph node swelling occurs near the site of the bite or scratch. Other common symptoms include a bump/blister at the site of the bite/scratch, fever, fatigue, headache, and overall discomfort.

If you have swollen lymph nodes and a recent scratch or bite from a cat,

your health care provider may suspect CSD. The Bartonella henselae IFA test, a type of blood test, is highly accurate for identifying infection caused by this bacteria.

Generally, CSD is not serious. Medical treatment is usually not needed. In severe cases or in immuno-suppressed patients, treatment with antibiotics is recommended. If you suspect you may have cat scratch disease, contact your physician for advice.

To reduce your risk of exposure to CSD, wash your hands after playing with cats and use good flea control on all of your pets.

We are Waiting, Too!

(A letter from some very special cats to all SHFC volunteers)

Dear SAFE Haven volunteers,

We are so excited that five of our fellow felines have been rescued from an unthinkable lab situation and are now safe with us while they await loving, forever homes. The swift response to their story has been generous and overwhelming.

We believe we must seize this opportunity to appeal to you, our kind and dedicated SAFE Haven volunteers. You are the ones who know us so well and believe in how special we can be in real homes.

We want to remind everyone that we, too, are waiting and have been waiting quite a while. We have great care, food, water, shelter and daily attention but in the end we, too, are in cages. Waiting. We long for our own spaces to romp free, our own sunny windows, our own comfy laps.

Each of us also has a special story and some of us come with challenges that will require a person willing to go the extra mile. But we know those people

are out there. It's just a matter of finding them. That's where you come in.

Please take a little time to share our stories and photos with your friends, family and colleagues. Let them know how wonderful we already are and how much more wonderful we could be in real homes. If they are unable to adopt, maybe they would consider fostering. Amazing changes happen when we have some time away from the shelter.

We're counting on you and we know you won't disappoint us. You never do!

*Donatella
Orange Fizz
Ballandra
Tamryn
Crystal
Mallo Cup
Toffee Crunch
McKinney
Euphoria
Oasis
Della and Harper
Kraven and Lucien*

Spotlight On...

Linda and Adam Roycroft
Thursday Evening Cleaners



Adam and Linda Roycroft commute from Greensboro to volunteer at SAFE Haven.

Linda and Adam Roycroft weren't able to locate a no-kill shelter in Greensboro (where they live), so when they stumbled across the Tuxedo Cat Ball on the web and learned about SAFE Haven, they decided that this was a place they'd like to volunteer.

Since April of this year they've been traveling the hour and 15 minutes each way once or twice a week, usually for a Thursday or Sunday cleaning shift. Recently Linda responded to an e-mail from Pam asking for volunteers to help with the annual auction because she wanted to get more involved. When no one else volunteered to chair the auction committee at the first meeting,

Linda stepped up and took the job.

The Roycrofts have participated in other SHFC activities in the last six months. They transported all the items for the yard sale at the Raleigh flea market, and collected items for the Fill a Truck event. (Since they were unable to be at the actual Fill a Truck event, they decided to hold their own event by asking their co-workers if they'd like to donate – and they did!)

Adam also participated in the outdoor cleaning of all the Garvey Drive cages that helped keep this year's ringworm outbreak under control.

SAFE Haven isn't the first animal-related volunteering that Linda and Adam have done. When they lived in Buffalo, NY, Linda volunteered at a very small shelter, taking animals to nursing homes to interact with the residents, and doing cage cleaning (of course).

She and Adam currently participate in animal rescue transport, taking dogs and cats from high-kill shelters in the South to no-kill shelters and foster homes up North. Linda also participates in her employer's community partnership outreach program; she worked at a horse farm that provides therapy for troubled children, and at a farm that helps shelter dogs.

The first day that Linda and Adam came to volunteer, they noticed Chewy, one of SHFC's longer residents. Linda was a bit afraid to pet her at first, but she got to know her better and was really hoping she would get adopted when she moved to Durant Station.

But no one took Chewy home, and when Linda and Adam talked to Sherri about adopting an older, female cat, Chewy was first on the list. They decided to foster her for a while, to make sure she fit in with the rest of the family. They took her home on a Tuesday, and a little more than a week later, made the adoption official.

Chewy (now named Libby) joined a (cat) family of four when she went home. Elliott is a three-year old who was dumped in the bushes outside of Linda's

workplace when he was about four months. (Linda says it was incredibly easy to trap him – she put a can of Fancy Feast in the cage and he was inside immediately.) Abby Rose is a one year old who was found with her two siblings by a colleague. Brothers Calvin and Mackerel, now three years old, were also found by her colleague on her front porch when they were two months old.

Linda and Adam agree that they really enjoy volunteering because the people they work with are so nice, and willing to pitch in to get the work done. "It's a relief to get out of work and come to the shelter – it's worth driving from Greensboro!"

More on Caswell/Jessy

(continued from page 2)

wonderful to watch his progress. I am so lucky!



Caswell/Jessy looking oh-so confident and happy!

"He is the perfect addition to our family. I am so thankful that the family who chose to give up Jessy left him on Safe Haven's doorstep. He never would have survived for 8 months in the traditional shelter.

"Thanks so much for all you have done for Jessy. I can tell that he was really loved at the shelter, which helped his integration into our family."



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