

Just for You!

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The **SCRATCHING** Post

www.safehavenforcats.org

March/April 2018



The Tuxedo Cat Ball

Friday, April 13, 2018

See page 8 for details

Message from our President

Welcome Friends!

I have so much good news to report to you, our wonderful supporters! Thanks to YOU, we have accomplished so much!

I'm happy to be able to begin my update by telling you that we passed a major milestone when we made our 9,000th adoption at the end of January!

Take a look at the joyful photo below as Diana and Gregg Zwilling of Wake Forest adopted Hummingbird and Golden Sands. Golden Sands was abandoned at the shelter in a carrier in September of 2017 and Hummingbird was found in a person's yard as a stray. Even though the average length of stay in our shelter is 4 weeks, Golden Sands waited 17 weeks for Diana and Gregg...but it was worth it!

Volunteers and adopters alike are always interested in knowing where all the cats at SAFE Haven come from. They are all stray, abandoned, injured or orphaned, and here is the breakdown: Of the 872 cats in our shelter last year, 467 were strays found by members of our community, and 236 were transferred to SAFE Haven from the Granville, Franklin, Orange and Wake County Animal Shelters. Finally, 29 were abandoned here, while 44 came from hoarders and 96 came from immediate life-threatening situations.

Beyond serving our community by directly taking stray animals our neighbors have found, SAFE Haven is a friendly place to adopt a cat. Our philosophy is based on an open adoption process that is conversation based, non-confrontational and welcoming. Cats can go home the same day! There are no off-putting home visits! We enjoy hosting families with children! The hardest part for you will be picking your new friend from among the 50 or so we have ready every day!

January marked another significant achievement for SAFE Haven when the 25,000th cat was sterilized at the SAFE Care Feline Clinic. The photo below is Ann Dean and Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, owner of the Clinic.

The 25,000th cat was a male, feral cat from Ann and her husband's feral colony in Dunn. At that location they have a shop and take care of 10 other cats who have also used the clinic. The sign on the cage says "I love my sterile feral. TNVR Saves Lives!" (TNVR = Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return).

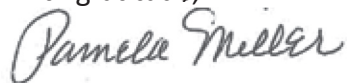
At the SAFE Care Clinic, every customer is treated with respect, regardless of whether or not they can pay the already low fee of \$85. In fact 30% of the clinic customers receive these services for free or half price. This is thanks to our supportive donors and national leaders in the field of animal welfare such as The Petrie Foundation and PetSmart Charities.

And, we simply can't say it enough: Our hundreds of dedicated and hard-working volunteers are the key to our success, along with a veterinary and shelter staff of ten. Their \$200,000 of time donated to the cats each year goes a long way towards helping us keep our overhead expenses at 17.5%.

Be sure to read about our education programs, our Pet Food Pantry (the only pet pantry in Wake County), and our upcoming events including the largest one of the year...The Tuxedo Cat Ball...all inside this newsletter!

Congratulations to each one of you in the SAFE Haven family on these stellar accomplishments. They could not have happened without you!

With gratitude,



Pamela Miller
Founder & President



Diane & Greg Zwilling
Adoption Number 9,000



Ann Dean & Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix
Sterilization Number 25,000

VOLUNTEER @ SAFE Haven

FUN!

FRIENDLY!

REWARDING!

IMPORTANT!

Please come and join us. Without question, we have something for everyone to do to help. Read more about volunteering on our website, fill out a volunteer application and plan on joining us for our Volunteer Open House on March 27. Here are some of the opportunities available.

Adoption Counseling

If you like talking to people, laughing a lot and being a winner... then this is for you.

All potential adopters are paired with a counselor to discuss their needs, previous experience with cats, how best to choose a forever feline companion, and ways to integrate their new companion into their home.



Pistachio

Event Volunteer

Want to participate in outreach activities in the community? Maybe you would rather help set up for the annual Tuxedo Cat Ball or Fill-A-Truck and community festivals? SAFE Haven for Cats hosts multiple fundraisers and outreach activities throughout the year and always needs individuals who want to join the volunteer service team!

Pet Food Pantry

Helping needy families keep their pets was the impetus for creating the Pet Food Pantry. Volunteers help with collection and distribution of donated food for dogs and cats.

Shelter Cleaning Team

Central to the success of SAFE Haven for Cats is the cleanliness and upkeep of the shelter, and this cannot be done without the volunteers who come in daily to tidy up. The shelter cleaning team members scoop litter boxes, change linens and toys, fill water bowls, and sweep the floor. Some cleaning team members focus on laundry and dishes as well. Cleaning team members can also play and socialize with the cats at the end of their shift.



Making Feral Cat Houses – Project Julius



Pet Food Pantry Volunteers in action

Be a Tabby “Cabby”

Sometimes cats need to be transported to a specialty veterinary practice, or local shelters request that SAFE Haven for Cats pick up cats that are coming to SAFE Haven. Also, sometimes food needs to be delivered to pet food pantry recipients. The Tabby Cabby outreach is the dedicated car service for cats!



Amore

Mouse Makers

Make fabric catnip mice (meets once per month on the first Saturday and can be done at home as well). Sew cute: Join other crafters and make fabric catnip mice.

Fostering

Foster parents provide short-term care for cats in their homes.

Your duties as a foster care parent include providing daily care and feeding, socializing and plenty of TLC! You will also need to provide transportation to and from the shelter for medical appointments. You could have your foster for a few weeks or several months.

Fostering can be the most rewarding and fulfilling thing a true cat lover will ever do to support cats! You will be elated when your foster cat gets adopted.



Every photo of a cat in this newsletter is an actual cat from **SAFE Haven**.
NO STOCK PHOTOS HERE!

Kitty Klassifieds

Available at the shelter – Please come and meet us!

Quatrain came to SAFE Haven from one of our partnering county shelters. During his initial exam, he was unable to move his tail. After thorough examination, he was determined to have a “tail pull” injury. This type of injury occurs when a cat’s tail is jerked/pulled hard enough to dislocate the tail vertebrae. In some cases, it can lead to a complete loss of nerve function and significant urinary problems.



Quatrain is a nine month old male teenager

Quatrain is unable to lift or move his tail. When frightened, he can erect the hairs but he cannot move his tail otherwise. He had a few episodes of urinary problems when he first arrived here. Initially, he dripped a small amount of urine while sleeping. This slowly resolved over a few months. He had one instance of complete urinary blockage (unable to urinate) that required hospitalization and medical treatment. Since the blockage, he has been on a special urinary diet and has had no additional urinary issues. He is not currently leaking/dripping urine and is able to urinate completely normally. We recommend only using clumping litter so his urinations can be monitored daily. And due to his history of urinary problems, we recommend Quatrain be fed a prescription diet made for urinary issues.

Quatrain is a very special and sweet boy. He loves playing with laser toys and feather toys and also loves to snuggle in your lap. He is currently looking for his new home.

Salsa is such a well-adjusted perfect cat. She loves to be petted and is easy to pick up and hold. She loves playing with balls and catnip mice and enjoys stalking and jumping on them. She is great with everyone including dogs, other cats and children. What’s not to love about this lovely cat who came to us from the Franklin County Animal Shelter.



Salsa is a 2 year old female Torti Tabby Tux



Mistra is a year and a half year old female

Mistra is a young cat who is lucky to have been found as a stray and brought to our good friends at the Wake Country Adoption Center. They told us about her and we were delighted to bring her to SAFE Haven. The most striking thing about Mistra is her huge gold eyes, large ears and sleek, shiny fur. She has the longest legs and tiny feet. If she had her DNA done we are sure there would be some Siamese in her lineage.

Sparkle (as her former adopter called her) was adopted from SAFE Haven 4 years ago. Her owner could no longer keep her so she was returned to us. She loves to sleep on the bed with her humans, HATES dogs, is sweet, and nervous sometimes. (This actually describes some people I know!) Our Happy Cats group of volunteers is working with her and reporting a lot of progress in her becoming more confident and enjoying touch, a predictable schedule, and yummy treats. (Again, like a lot of people I know!). Surely, there is a loving person in our community who could love her back.



Sparkleberry is a 6 year old female cat



Ewok is a 5 month old male

Ewok

Wow what can we say?

This photo is too cute and so is he.

Good with kids, dogs and other cats, come see him.

He won't be here long!

Special Cats Saved by You

Brick came to SAFE Haven after being found outside. He had significant diarrhea and fecal scald. He was also unable to move his tail and had no obvious pain response. Brick had a severe tail pull injury.

His diarrhea quickly resolved but there was no improvement to his tail. He had nerve damage that left him incontinent (both fecal and urinary) and unable to move his tail.

So to find a solution for Brick's unique lifestyle we started putting "preemie" diapers on him. This worked great.

Brick is a hilarious and feisty boy. He loves attention and playtime. We eventually found a home for him in Youngstown, Ohio and he was driven there by a SAFE Haven volunteer.





Melody is a 12 year old, brown and white tabby who was only at SAFE Haven for 8 weeks.

Melody came to us as a stray surrender. The people that found her thought she was a young pregnant cat but she was an older spayed female cat with a history of trauma.

When she came to us as a stray she had a damaged left eye that could not be saved and a polyp in her left ear. In addition she had a misaligned jaw. We believe she had previous head trauma that damaged her eye. The eye had to be removed and she has recovered wonderfully.

Wow! We got her the surgeries she needed at a specialty practice (Animal Eye Care) we have been using for over 25 years. Melody is a very goofy lady and loves her soft beds and toys. She made a full recovery and now lives in Durham.

Sterling is such a cute 9 year old kitty who was a stray in Oxford. To get him “up to speed” to be adopted we had to address a host of medical issues including: swelling on bridge of nose (a mass was removed), dental disease (he had a dental cleaning), heart murmur (cardiac workup) and scabs throughout body (several antibiotics).

Sterling was a doll throughout all that and went to his new home a happy and much healthier cat.



Jolynn was found as a stray cat in Clayton. This two year old is eating much better after having a dental cleaning and extraction of several rotten teeth! She was adopted 3 weeks after her arrival at SAFE Haven.

Elias, is a 4 year old kitty who came to us with a left eye that was not working! Technically he had a shrunken globe and no cornea. So he is blind in that eye. He went to our dear friends at Animal Eye Care and actually had an orbital implant put in that eye so he could maintain his handsome good looks.

He spent 25 weeks at SAFE Haven, including two months in foster care before being adopted.



The 14th Annual Tuxedo Cat Ball

Friday, April 13, 2018, 7 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

North Ridge Country Club

- Biggest SAFE Haven event of the year
- Fantastic dinner and drinks
- Hundreds of auction items for you and your cats and dogs
- SAFE Haven video – you will feel good!
- Jewelry store at the Ball – provided by Raleigh Diamond. Try on beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces and see how you look!
- Selfie Station – Sponsored by BC/DC Ideas
- Raffle – Win \$1,000
- Surprises!
- Auctioneer: Col. Benjamin Farrell, Electronic Bidding by OneCause
- Tickets: \$100 per person @ tuxedocatball.org



2018 Tuxedo Cat Ball Ticket Order Form

(Please note: no tickets will be mailed. Simply go to the check-in desk upon arrival.)

Your name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Number of individual tickets (admits one) _____ x \$100

CASH RAFFLE for \$1,000

Number of raffle tickets for chance to win \$1,000 cash
_____ @ \$10 for a total of \$ _____
_____ @ 3 for \$25 for a total of \$ _____

Drawing at the conclusion of the Tuxedo Cat Ball, April 13, 2018. You do not need to be present to win.

Total Payment \$ _____

My check payable to SAFE Haven for Cats is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card. VISA MasterCard AmEx Discover
Card Number _____ Exp. date _____ Security Code _____

I/we cannot attend. Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to show our support.

Please use the enclosed envelope to return your order form.

RALEIGH
Diamond
FINE JEWELRY



Bid on this one-of-a-kind diamond kitty pendant created especially for the Ball by Raleigh Diamond.



Also up for bids this one week stay at Seaside, a Gulf-front community in Florida. This is where the movie "The Truman Show" was filmed!

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Back for the second year “The Cat’s Meow”

SAVE the DATE:

Wednesday, May 9 @ Trig Modern



Local architects design fantastic cat houses that are auctioned off by our friend, Ben Farrell, of Custom Benefit Auctions, while guests enjoy delicious food and drink at this free event. This unique event is hosted by Trig Modern and sponsored by Bob Drake of Trig and Ann Marie Baum of Baum Shelter, LLC.

Here are photos from last year’s exciting event! Stay tuned for RSVP information.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Rabies & Microchip Clinic | March 24, 2018 |
| Volunteer Open House | March 27, 2018 |
| PetPeople Adoption Event | April 7 & 21 |
| Tuxedo Cat Ball | April 13, 2018 |
| Cat Communication Class | April 24, 2018 |
| Apex Peak Fest | May 5, 2018 |
| Cat’s Meow | May 9, 2018 |
| Kitten Shower | May 25, 2018 |
| Kitten Palooza Adoption Event | May 26 & 27, 2018 |
| Feline Friendly Fundamentals Class | June 5, 2018 |
| Run for Their Lives 5k | October 29, 2018 |



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SAFE Haven for Cats

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Photos:

Photos in this publication are courtesy of contributors, Karen Reynolds and Brittani Halbert Photography.

About SAFE Haven for Cats:

SAFE Haven's mission is to use no-kill principles and education to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter services and community programs.

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 The 14th annual
Tuxedo Cat Ball
Get your tickets now at
tuxedocatball.org

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