

The A.C.A.T. Tale

Albuquerque Cat Action Team PO Box 51683 Albuquerque, NM 87181-1683 505-323-ACAT (323-2228)



Albuquerque Cat Action Team (A.C.A.T.)

- New Mexico's only no-kill organization dedicated exclusively to enhancing the lives of stray, orphaned, abused, and neglected CATS!
- A.C.A.T.'s homepage is www.albcat.com for information on fostering, volunteering, and general feline issues.

Anastasia's Story – From Tears to Purrs

Amidst the tears and sadness that were apparent from her crackling and humble voice, Anastasia's mom was on the other end of the phone, asking for us to help her carry out a heart-wrenching decision. This soft-spoken, loving young woman needed help...immediate help...in finding a home for her beloved Anastasia.

You see, she was leaving Albuquerque in the morning. She had been completely stripped of her

safety net, had no job, no where to live, was not sure where she was headed, but knew that she could not take Anastasia. One thing she was sure of, however, was her complete and unconditional love for Anastasia. She loved her dearly, and, although it was excruciatingly hard to part with her, she knew that A.C.A.T. would give her lifetime care and find a loving home for her.

Four years earlier she had adopted Anastasia from a shelter in Kentucky, when Anastasia was about a year old. At the time of her adoption, Anastasia was scared and lonely, and had been declawed on all four paws. This lovely woman took her into her home and heart and kept her until that recent day when she gave her up to A.C.A.T.

A.C.A.T. counsels owners who are considering giving up their pets. We try very hard to help owners find ways to keep their cats and to realize the lifetime commitment that they made to them. Sometimes, however, as in Anastasia's case, the situation is dire, and conditions cannot be changed. Sometimes a cat

must be given up.

So, we took Anastasia into our care, and felt a strong sense of duty to find the most ideal home for her. She was beautiful and showed a great ability to adjust, fitting in at her foster home after only a few days. It wasn't long before a wonderful family came along and adopted Anastasia.

Her new owners recently sent us the following letter, dictated to them by the "new" Anastasia:

To all my loving friends at ACAT,

Thank you all so much for helping me find such a wonderful home! I've been here for a couple months now and I'm really starting to like it. I have a 4 year old sister called Lady Belle. She's a little scary, you know, being a boxer and all, but she's really very nice (or so my people keep telling me)! I also have a really annoying little brother called Merlin, he's a Russian Blue.

There's plenty to do around here too. I love to watch Cassi's birds, hamsters, and fish. She also has this thing called a bearded dragon. Strange creature. Oh! I also have the most darling new hair cut! The really nice groomer gave me a lion cut.

Again – thank you all so much! Oh, and my people say thanks too! Bye for now!

Lots of love, Anastasia

Nellie May Be Looking For You

Soon after she was taken in, Nellie gave birth to five beautiful kittens.



The folks who had been feeding her couldn't locate an owner and they contacted A.C.A.T.

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Albuquerque Cat Action Team (A.C.A.T.)

A.C.A.T. is the first no-kill, foster based group in Albuquerque exclusively dedicated to enhancing the lives of cats. All cats are cared for in temporary foster homes. All cats are tested for feline leukemia and FIV, vaccinated, and are spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

A.C.A.T.'s mission is to:

- Provide a safe haven in the form of foster homes for stray, orphaned, abused, and neglected cats and kittens in the Albuquerque metropolitan area.
- Provide veterinary care to the cats and kittens that come into our program and ensure that all cats and kittens that are adopted through our organization are spayed or neutered before adoption.
- Assist owners, through our surrender and adoption program, with re-housing their cats.
- Relocate cats and kittens into permanent, loving homes through our adoption program.
- Educate the public regarding the necessity of spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership.
- Provide counseling and advice regarding cat behavioral and care issues.
- Provide low cost spay/neuter for low-income cat owners.

A.C.A.T. is a non-profit corporation under section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

President: Cindy Richards
Vice Presidents: Helen Archer & Beverly Daugherty
Secretary/Treasurer: Marianne Kemp
Director for Fund Raising and Feral Cats: Pam Russell
Director for Policies and Budgets: Craig Richards

Calendar of Events

- Every Saturday, 11 a.m.—4 p.m., Cat/kitten adoption clinic at PETCO
- August 26th and September 23rd, 11 a.m.—4 p.m.: MEMBERSHIP DRIVE at Wild Oats, San Mateo & Academy
- September 9th: ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS go on sale. Stop by our table at Wild Oats on San Mateo & Academy from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember to buy your Entertainment Books from A.C.A.T.
- October 7th, 3—7 p.m.: MEMBERSHIP MEETING and pot luck social. All members, or those interested in signing up as members, should plan to attend. Event is open to families. Please call 323-2228 as soon as possible to RSVP.
- October 28th: BAKE SALE at PETCO, 11 a.m.—4 p.m. A Halloween theme.

Look What We've Done!

A.C.A.T. has had phenomenal success! By early August, we had adopted out 130 cats! This is an incredible and auspicious beginning, and one of which we are all very proud.

Our deepest thanks go to the terrific volunteers who make it all possible, to our wonderful veterinarians and their staffs, and to PETCO. Our continued success depends on each and every one of you!

During our first 4½ months we helped more than 200 cats. We accepted 190 cats into our foster-adoption program, helped several families with limited incomes to obtain low cost spay or neuter

How You Can Help A.C.A.T.

Please call our voicemail at 323-2228 if you are able to help with any of the following:

- Does anyone have connections to a business that might be able to donate film and/or film processing services for A.C.A.T.?
- Can you take the lead in trying to obtain cat/kitten food donations for our foster families?
- We really need folks who are willing to help organize and staff bake sales scheduled for October 28th and December 9th.
- Can you spare one Saturday a month to help staff our fundraising table? We sell raffle tickets, gift items, Entertainment Books, and solicit donations...and generally have a lot of fun each Saturday. You'd be doing an essential task, and for sure you'll make some new friends!
- We are in the process of organizing our fall/winter raffle. Can you help obtain prizes or help sell tickets?

**130 Cats
Find
Loving
Homes!**

for their cats, and placed several cats back with their owners after spaying or neutering them. In tune with our education mission, we advised hundreds of people about responsible pet ownership. Most frequently, we advised them about their options for placing their own or stray cats, edu-

cated them about the facts about declawing, why a cat should remain indoors, how to leash train cats, how to find low cost spay and neuter for their own or stray cats, etc.

Donors

Many heartfelt thanks to the following persons who donated to A.C.A.T. Your financial support is tremendously important. (Remember, A.C.A.T. is a non-profit corporation under section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so your donations are tax deductible. Please let us know if you would like a receipt for your donation.)

Bob & Helen Archer	Michael Dolgin	Virvela Jaramillo	Edwina Reid
Lynn Bartnik	Carol Gary	Sherril Kirchmeier	Judy Salazar
Nikki Beach	Cheryl Gensinger	Aaron Kissinger	Carlo Torres
Debbie Benton	Elaine Gorham	Lamoyne McCaulley	Lucille Valverde
Margaret Bobb	Brett & Dana Greer	Marta Ortiz	Danielle Wagner
Janice Carp	Billi Guysi	Margaret Ann Pedone	Ellie Wonker
E. Walford Churchill	Don Hewatt	Anita & Robert Quintana	Nicole Yagnich
Donald D'Amour	Connie Hyde	Doris Razura	

Corporate Sponsors

Canyon Crossroads Animal Hospital
 Northview Animal Hospital
 Village Veterinary Hospital
 VCA-Montgomery Animal Hospital
 PETCO
 Valliant Enterprises
 P. R. Best – Allstate Insurance (Corrales)

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to see if we could help find a home for her. Nellie was a very good mom cat, and when the babies were old enough, she decided that it was time to give up motherhood permanently!

Nellie absolutely LOVES attention. She will demand that she be allowed to sit on your lap, loves to be combed and petted, and is a sweet cat. She also loves to follow you around the house! She gets along with other cats, but is a little bit dominant. She probably would fit in with most cats, but definitely does NOT like dogs.

Nellie is a CAT WITH ATTITUDE. She's beautiful and she knows it!

Could you and your home be what she is looking for?

Be A Kitty Sponsor

If you love animals, but cannot foster one, maybe you could "sponsor" one! As a "kitty sponsor" your donation will help to spay, neuter, or provide other needed medical care to one of our many special kitties. You will receive a picture and history of the cat you sponsor. Please complete the following form and mail it in with your tax deductible donation.

You will be helping to make a real difference in the lives of cats!

YES! I would like to be a "kitty sponsor" for a very special kitty. Please check one:

- \$40 to cover the cost of spay or neuter
- \$50 to cover the cost of spay or neuter and shots
- \$70 to cover the cost of feline leukemia testing, spay or neuter and shots

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Congratulations to the following cats who found loving new homes between mid-May and early August:

Aiden, Aladdin, Amadalla, Amber, Andy, Angel, Annie, Annie O, Astaire, Baby, Birdie, Bobbin, Buffett, Calamity Jane, Cassidy, Cheeto, Cinderella, Courtney, Dakota, Dax, Desi, Fantasia, Fluffy Sam, Gem, Geronimo, Ginger, Harlow, Jade, Jar-Jar, Jackson, Jasmine, Jasper, Jewel, Jupiter, Klondike, Leia, Little Joe, Mae West, Ming, Mohican, Mr. T., Natalie, Phillip, Rachel, Radar, Ram, Ranger, Reno, Ricky, Sachmo, Sam, Saturn, Shania, Simba, Sisco, Smokey, Stormy, Sundance, Tahoe, Thor, Tigger, Tonto, Tuffy, Twinkie, Tyger, Venus, Whistler, Yahoo, Yoda, ZigZag.



HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, please call or write us with your corrected address so we can keep our mailing list updated!

Volunteer Corner

We are truly blessed with wonderful friends and volunteers, both old and new. WITHOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, NONE OF WHAT WE DO WOULD BE POSSIBLE!

From time to time, however, we find that a particular volunteer has truly been OUTSTANDING. In this issue, A.C.A.T. wants to honor **Donnie Dominguez**, because she is tremendously important to A.C.A.T.

Donnie is a remarkable volunteer. She is incredibly reliable, never missing an adoption clinic. She cheerfully sets up and tears down the equipment for every one of our clinics (sometimes with a little help from others)—this is no small feat either! Once she is done with equipment, Donnie helps screen potential adopters and helps with doing adoption contracts.

She is also a terrific foster mom. Donnie has fostered many of the cats that A.C.A.T. has had in our program. She caters to their every need, providing love and care and behavior modification if needed! She has a heart of gold and is always willing to take in one more foster cat, just so we can “help a few more.”

Donnie always seems to know someone who can help A.C.A.T. She has saved us countless dollars by encouraging businesses to donate goods and services to A.C.A.T. She also is a terrific fundraiser, helping sell raffle tickets and gift items to her many friends and business acquaintances. And, Donnie spends many hours running errands for A.C.A.T., such as taking foster cats to the vets, picking up office supplies, etc.

In addition to helping at adoption clinics, being a cat foster parent, running errands, and fundraising, Donnie helps feed feral colonies in the Albuquerque area. She is always eager to help a cat, and to help her A.C.A.T. friends.

Donnie, from everyone at A.C.A.T., we want to say thank you for all you do. YOU'RE TERRIFIC!



Donnie Dominguez is a remarkable volunteer!

Help A.C.A.T. by making on-line purchases from PETOPIA

Petopia, an affiliate program that is part of PETCO's online presence, will provide A.C.A.T. with a rebate and percentage of all net sales. Please visit the A.C.A.T. website at www.albcat.com and find out how you can link up with Petopia and get great deals on your pet needs, while at the same time helping A.C.A.T. help cats.

Alumni Report

"Hi! We adopted Adobe and Sonora a few weeks ago – what wonderful kittens, and how well socialized by the Kemp's. They have brought us, and the dogs, and the other cats, hours of joy and entertainment – will send pix under separate cover! Your organization is to be commended. Again, thanks!"

Pat Spaltro

"Hi A.C.A.T. I got your card in the mail regarding my adoption of Mariah. She is doing great. She is adjusting to our home and my husband and myself. My male cat likes her too. She sure likes being on our lap when she is awake and she chases our big cat all over the apartment. He doesn't know what to think of that. We love her and will take good care of her."

Laurie Yancey

"Hi! It's me, Alma Salacar, formerly Zena #47. I'm so busy being loved, hugged, and kissed that my only free time to write is here in my litter box! I want everyone to know I am fine and eating my mom out of house and home. I want to thank you for taking care of me and finding a mother (Judy) and a new home for me to grow up in. My most favorite toys are a white shoelace and a bag that I can kick around. I have a king-sized bed that I roll around in day and night. My mom says we have really "bonded" for life but I know that really means I'm loved!! I'll write to you from time to time. Meow to everyone,"

Alma (aka Zena #47)

Fantastic Foster Families

Many heartfelt thanks to the following wonderful fosters who generously give of their time, money, and love to help A.C.A.T. kitties. If you would like to foster, please contact us.

We ALWAYS need foster homes:

Nancy, Tom, & Zuri Bennett

Kim Berry

Beverly Daugherty

Tori Davis

Donnie Dominguez

Carol & John Gary

Melissa Hawker

Cynthia Henderson

Melinda Horton

Marianne & Kyle Kemp

Julie Leathers

Yvonne Martini

Sue McHenry

Heather Pierson & Tim Verstynen

Miriam Renick

Jackie Renick

Linda & Jack Sullivan

Cindy & Craig Richards

Kate Romell & Chris Anderson

Nancy White

Fundraising Report

Fundraising is critical to the long-term success of A.C.A.T. So far, we've had great results. We hope to continue this trend and to establish two permanent funds: one to help low income owners pay for sterilizing their cats, and one to subsidize the spay and neuter of feral cats. Our fundraising activities over the next year will provide the foundation for these programs, as well as help to pay for the care of all the foster cats in our program.

Spring/Summer Raffle

Our spring/summer raffle was a great success. Twenty raffle prizes were awarded on July 29th to some very lucky winners. We raised over \$700, which means we can help so many more animals. Thanks to everyone who helped by selling tickets, obtaining raffle prizes for us, and by purchasing tickets! Special mention has to go to several people who sold an incredible number of tickets: Donnie Dominguez, Stephanie Long, Norma DeAnda and Maria Wade. These ladies deserve a pat on the back!

Thanks again to the businesses and people who provided raffle prizes.

Bake Sales: A Lot of Dough Makes a Lot of Dough!

We had a number of bake sales over the spring and summer. Pam Russell and Nancy Kinney did a terrific job in organizing these bake sales. So far this year we have made over \$800 from them! That's a lot of cookies, cakes, and pies!

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books go on sale September 9th. They cost \$35 and have hundreds of coupons in them for area restaurants, airlines, entertainment places, etc. We also can sell you books for out-of-town locations; a great gift for Christmas. Please visit our adoption clinics to purchase a book, or call our voice mail at 323-2228 to order your books.

A.C.A.T. (Albuquerque Cat Action Team) P.O. Box 51683 Albuquerque, NM 87181-1683
505-323-2228 (323-ACAT)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to become a member of A.C.A.T. in the following category:

- Guardian Angel (\$1,000 or more) Sponsor or Family (\$50)
 Star (\$500) Individual (\$30)
 Hero (\$250) Students, Seniors, or Low Income (\$10)
 Friend (\$100) Active Volunteer (\$10)

I have checked the appropriate category above, and enclosed payment to A.C.A.T. (check or cash.)

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

- Dues are due and payable annually in advance of or at the annual meeting, held in March.
- The Board of Directors shall receive applications for membership made to it in writing.
- The privilege to vote shall be extended to all members in good standing of the organization, over the age of 18 years.
- At any meeting of the general membership the privilege of the floor shall be extended to any member.
- In the conduct of A.C.A.T. business, all members shall abide by the policies and procedures set forth in A.C.A.T.'s corporate records, handbooks, and other policies, programs, regulations, and instructions. The failure of any member to abide by these provisions shall be grounds for termination of membership.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ALBCAT.COM



Helping Cats and Their People

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