



# The A.C.A.T. Tale

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We're on the Web  
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Albuquerque's First & Premier  
Cat Only Rescue Group!

Please always remember  
our sanctuary cats!  
They need your help  
and your donations  
to A.C.A.T. are  
tax deductible.  
Contact us for your  
donation receipt!



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## From Feral to Friend.....

*“Boo” - The tale of a sanctuary cat*

When I was 1 ½ years old, I took up residence in a comfortable wood pile and had a litter of five kittens. The lady of the house saw me around and I think she thought I belonged to someone in the neighborhood so she left me alone.

The discovery.....

When she realized there were kittens there, she put food in the woodpile for us. She fed us twice a day & inched the food further away each time. She set out a really weird, large box, propped the door open, put the food in there & inched the food farther in each time. I let my kittens eat first and when they were done, she put more food in for me. We didn't know she had set up a portable puppy pen to socialize the kittens. She put chicken wire around the edges so they couldn't squeeze through the bars & clothes pinned a sheet across the top for shade. Then she was ready to do the “dirty deed”.

One week later.....

She had a rope attached to the door, through the inside of the crate and out the holes in back. She put more food all the way in & waited. Finally all five kittens were in! She pulled the door closed & they went crazy! She got the kittens in the pen already prepared & put the crate back to catch me. She tied more rope to the existing rope to lengthen it (about 20 feet long now) because I was more wary than the kittens. It took about twenty minutes but I was so hungry so I went in (cautiously of course) and ate the food. She S-L-O-W-L-Y pulled the door closed & I was caught!

If only the story ended here.....

She put an email out to the neighborhood with my picture but no one came forward. She had me spayed, put me in a cat condo outside, covered all sides of it to make me feel safe & left me alone. Luckily I wasn't aggressive so she was able to feed me, give me water & clean my litter box. I was in the condo for about three weeks to make sure I was healed. Since she was busy working with & socializing my kittens, she opened the door of the condo, let me out & she had an outdoor cat. I didn't let her pet me but I stuck around.

I stayed around for food but winter was coming. In mid-November she put out a feral cat trap, placed a trail of baked chicken into the trap (YUMMY), put a towel over the top and I couldn't resist! Oh no, she trapped me again....

This time I went into the kitty condo complete with scratching post, toys and two shelves for sitting (or sleeping) in her home office. It was definitely warmer and pretty comfy. I was in the condo for what seemed like years. I started talking to her, kneading and rubbing my face and body on the sides. The lady would sleep on the floor next to my condo so I got used to her being there. I was doing so well I got to come out. The bottom door opened and I was free! I think I used to be a pet because I rubbed all over everything, used my scratching post, played with toys and purred. If my foster mom moved too quickly or got too close, I was still wary of her. I rubbed on her legs one day when she held really still.

I have come such a long way since then! I love to be petted, purr a lot, sleep with my permanent foster mom when she sleeps with me, play with my toys and even have a screen door so I can stay safe in my room but look out and see the other kitties and talk to them. It has been over two years that I have been indoors. I still get scared now and then, and I'm still not sure about people I don't know, but and I am the happiest I have ever been, being a sanctuary cat!

Because of my “adventure”, I realized the need for A.C.A.T.'s services & have encouraged my mom's volunteering ever since.

~Boo (with Jen Souhrada typing)

“Women and cats will do as they please,  
and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.”

~Robert A. Heinlein

**SPONSOR-A-CAT!**

Not everyone can work an adoption clinic, gift wrap, work a yard sale or a gift table at the cat show! While these are very important to our organization, there is another way you can help without doing any of these things! Our sanctuary cats are still depending on us! This program has 26 unadoptable cats varying in ages and the average age of these kitties is around seven years old. We have committed to care for these cats for life so they still need you! You can sponsor a cat by pledging a certain amount each month to care for a kitty. Even a one time donation helps! Here are a few to choose from:

1. Nacho, DOB 10/22/04 - Permanent brain damage, enlarged heart, thyroid and chronic respiratory problems and severe asthma
2. Rubicon, DOB 1/7/95 - Shy, FIV positive and renal disease
3. Roma, DOB 6/1/01 - FIV positive and extreme shyness
4. Sterling, DOB 7/12/01 - Very dominant with other cats
5. Bronco - Permanent trauma from abuse by previous adopter
6. Mellow, DOB 4/16/04 - Semi-feral and thyroid problems
7. Einstein, DOB 5/27/02 - Permanent brain damage, litter box problems, dominance issues, and skeletal problems
8. Yoki, DOB 6/10/03 - Litter box problems
9. Leroy, DOB 12/1/00 - Brain and neurological damage, enlarged heart and collapsed lung lobes
10. Boo (cover story), DOB 12/14/05 - Semi-feral
11. Svenn, DOB 5/6/2001 - Wild and couldn't show, sprays in home

**Another Cat Show**

We are happy to announce that we will have our gift table at the CFA (Cat Fanciers Assn.) Cat Show **Sat. Mar. 5th, 9am-5pm & Sun. Mar. 6th, 8am-4pm** at the School Arts/Flower Building at the Fairgrounds. Use entrance gate 3. The vendors will be available both days to pick up that special something. Once you are at the show hall, you'll enter a room bustling with activity. There will be judging rings where a single person is handling the cats, and you will see beautiful cats, of many different breeds, being carried to and fro. You ask yourself, "OK, where do I start?" Visit this website for spectator tips: [www.CFA.org/client/showspectator tips.aspx](http://www.CFA.org/client/showspectator tips.aspx) Stop by our table, we'll be looking for you!

**A.C.A.T. YARD SALE!**

Start saving! Yes, another sale! It will be **July 8 & 9 at 8804 Harwood NE!** We'll be taking donations beginning April 16th! Save all your stuff and check our website [www.AlbCat.com](http://www.AlbCat.com), call or email for the drop off location (we're still working on that)! The drop off times will be Tuesdays 5-6:50pm and Saturdays 11-1pm. Call 505-323-ACAT (2228) or email [Mail@AlbCat.com](mailto:Mail@AlbCat.com) if you want to donate, volunteer at the yard sale or sit at storage for donation collections! Thank you so much, in advance!

**Arbonne Fundraiser!**

Sue Buffington is donating to A.C.A.T.! Simply go to [www.Arbonne.com](http://www.Arbonne.com) to shop online for wonderful European skin care products. After you have selected your products & check out, you will be asked to sign up as a client. When asked for the referral consultant ID, use number 15008696. ALL PROCEEDS from your purchase will benefit A.C.A.T. Purchases must be made **between Feb. 28 and March 14, 2011** to qualify. Contact Sue Buffington at 366-4282 or [SueBuff@Q.com](mailto:SueBuff@Q.com) with questions.

**LST (LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER) PROGRAM**

We continue to educate the public on the necessity of spay/neuter and help provide these low cost services to the public. Unlike the City of Albuquerque and Animal Humane, our program has no income limitations! This program is good for everyone and their kitties. Male, female, all ages, colors and sizes..... we don't discriminate! If you or anyone you know need these services, please call 505-323-ACAT (2228) or email [Mail@AlbCat.com](mailto:Mail@AlbCat.com).

Board Members:

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Dir. for Finance

**Jennifer Souhrada**  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.ALCAT.COM](http://WWW.ALCAT.COM)

**Raffle time already!**

We have a few prizes already but are still looking for raffle prize donations to make the prize list truly awesome! If you know anyone who owns a restaurant, salon, entertainment venue or anywhere you like to go, or anything you like to do, please ask them if they'd like to donate. Since A.C.A.T. is a registered non-profit, their donation is tax deductible! We are also asking for help selling tickets too! Make copies of the tickets enclosed and sell them to everyone you know! And, of course, buy your own as usual! The **drawing will be held Sun. Nov. 25th!** Call 505-323-ACAT (2228) or email [Mail@AlbCat.com](mailto:Mail@AlbCat.com) with questions!

Do you have spare time & a mellow cat who's good with people? **Consider getting him/her certified as a Therapy Pet.** You'll be able to participate in therapy programs & take her to visit hospital patients or people in rest homes (who've had to give up their cats.)

For info go to: [www.LoveOnALeash.org](http://www.LoveOnALeash.org),  
[www.DeltaSociety.org](http://www.DeltaSociety.org), or  
[www.TheCatSite.com/Snips/252/Therapy-Cats.html](http://www.TheCatSite.com/Snips/252/Therapy-Cats.html)

***A HUGE Thanks to all our Generous******Donors, Sponsors & Volunteers:***

We want you to know how very much we appreciate your donations and time! Every one of you has made a great difference in the lives of Albuquerque's cats!

**Raffle Prizes**

The prize list is still small since we just started, but so far we have:  
~\$25 Dion's gift certificate & travel mug  
~"Is My Cat OK?" Books - Dr. Jeff Nichol  
~10,000 Waves gift certificate  
~Bag of goodies from Barnes & Noble  
~2 palm readings  
~Haircut and color from I-Catchers Salon  
~Hinkle Family Fun Center gift certificate  
~2-\$20 Saggio's gift certificates  
~Exam and microchip-Uptown Cat Hosp.

**Thank you  
Barnes & Noble!**

Over the Christmas season we gift wrapped at Coronado Mall inside Barnes & Noble. We had lots of fun with some wonderful volunteers & made money to help the kitties! Stay tuned for our fall newsletter with dates for this year!

**Did You Know....****Cats Have Personalities Aligned with the Stars?**

Have you ever wondered what zodiac sign your cat might be? With their date of birth & this website [www.Novareinna.com/constellation/cat.html](http://www.Novareinna.com/constellation/cat.html) now you can find out! You can find pet personality traits and profiles on dogs & horses too!

**IF YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN  
VOLUNTEERING,  
FOSTERING OR  
NEED MORE INFO  
CALL 323-ACAT  
(2228) OR EMAIL  
MAIL@ALBCAT.COM**



Hijo

***A Female Cat's View of Spaying***

I was such a crazy cat! I wanted to go out all the time and find a boyfriend! I drove my humans insane by yowling loudly and continuously and scratching at the doors to get out. They couldn't take it anymore so they emailed A.C.A.T. about their LST (Low-Cost spay/neuter) Program. It was so easy! A.C.A.T. mailed the paperwork to my humans, they sent it back and then I was on my way to the vet. Since I got spayed, life has been much easier (and quieter). The benefits are; I am much happier not having to go through heat periods, and my risk for certain cancers, mammary tumors, and uterine diseases are greatly reduced. I am a much calmer, happier cat and a more even-tempered animal. I may gain weight though so they'll have to make sure I get more exercise so I can keep fit. Generally, I'll live a longer, happier life. Hijo and Whiskey are two cats who were helped by our spay/neuter program.

**Cat Beds  
Galore!**

Recently, we had several volunteers get together to make fleece beds for the cats in our "Sanctuary Program". There were people who donated

fleece, hosted the "parties", cut the fabric, pinned, sewed and stuffed. Charlene came up with the idea and it was amazing! We gathered twice, had food and drinks and made 20 beds total for the cats. (See clinical trial photo above) BIG Thank you to Charlene, Nancy L., Jen, Nancy M., Alan, Carmen, Bridgette, Jeanne and Sue. We had a lot of fun doing it and look forward to making kitty toys with the leftover fabric! >^..^<



Whiskey

**\*\*April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month\*\***

If you saw an act of cruelty against an animal, would you know what to do?

That's a tough question for many people: Should you confront the alleged abuser? Wait until you can call the police? If you do, do you risk reprisal? Or perhaps you're not entirely sure if the treatment constitutes abuse.

To help educate the public, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has designated April "Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month." People are urged to spend time this month to educate themselves and others about existing animal cruelty laws and to support pending legislation.

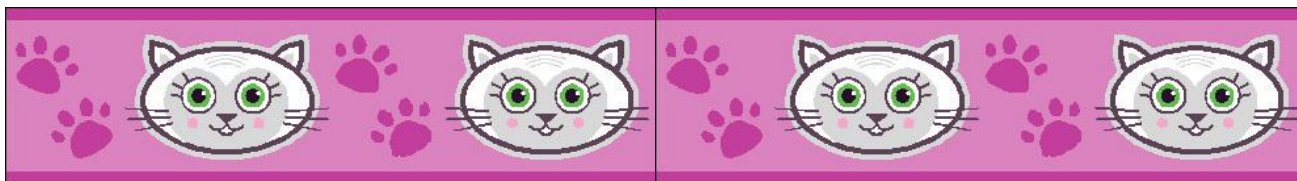
Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that make intentional cruelty a felony charge. Intentional abuse is just that – hitting, choking, kicking, deliberate starvation, etc. Unintentional abuse comes from ignorance; the abuser not knowing how to care for the pet.

In many states, unintentional abuse can lead to misdemeanor charges.

Animal abuse has received a lot more attention in recent years because it often signals abuse toward people. Children who abuse animals often abuse people later in life. By knowing how to spot abuse, you may be able to help people as well.

If you suspect someone is abusing a pet, don't confront that person directly. This is for your own safety, and the long-term interest of the pet. Call the police or your local animal control officer.

Visit [www.AnimalLaw.info/statutes/stusnm30\\_18\\_1\\_15.htm](http://www.AnimalLaw.info/statutes/stusnm30_18_1_15.htm) for New Mexico laws.



Please consider renewing your membership!

Your dues are completely tax deductible and your generosity is a life-line for many needy cats.

**A.C.A.T. (Albuquerque Cat Action Team) – P.O. Box 51683 – Albuquerque, NM 87181-1683  
505-323-ACAT (2228) or [Mail@AlbCat.com](mailto:Mail@AlbCat.com) [www.AlbCat.com](http://www.AlbCat.com)**

Yes, I would like to become a member of A.C.A.T. in the following category (checks or money orders made checks payable to A.C.A.T.):

- Guardian Angel (\$1000 or more)                       Star (\$500)     Hero (\$250)
- Friend (\$100)     Sponsor or Family (\$50)     Individual (\$30)
- Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10)                       Active Volunteers (\$10)

Sponsor-A-Cat, Name of cat and amount \_\_\_\_\_  
See previous newsletters or our website [www.AlbCat.com](http://www.AlbCat.com) for the list of cats

You can also donate right from your paycheck through United Way!

Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering - you must provide email address or phone # for this!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**A.C.A.T. is a registered  
501(c)(3) non-profit  
organization.  
Your donations and  
memberships are  
tax deductible to the  
extent permitted by law.**