



The A.C.A.T. Tale

Vol. 10, Issue 2

SUMMER 2010

A.C.A.T.
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www.AlbCat.com

Albuquerque's First & Premiere
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!

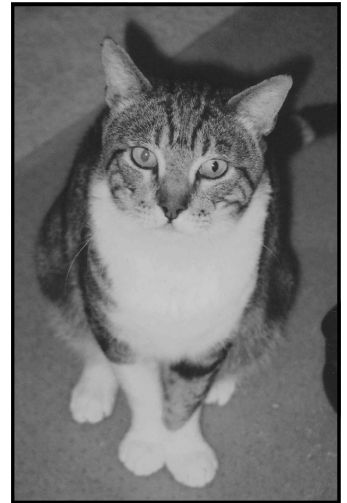


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Our featured "Sanctuary" cat-Rubicon

Spring 2002 - Rubicon waited restlessly as I prepared to sit in the easy chair we moved into my office for our "special times" together. Before I could even settle in, he pawed at my leg to ask permission to jump onto my lap. I motioned to him to jump up, and when he did he immediately began to purr. He showered me with little kitty "head butts" to show his love; I returned by giving him small kisses and lots of petting.



This scenario was the culmination of many long months of work. Not always were his eyes full of trust and love. Not always was his fur soft and silky. Not always would he let me touch him. It all began on a cold, rainy March night in 2002, when I trapped Rubicon after seeing him outdoors around our house for about 10 months. The only way to get him into the house was to drag him along in the trap, with the smelly fish parts from the food I had used spilling out of the trap's wire bottom. I took him into my office where I had prepared his "living quarters" in a 2 story cage. He bolted right into the cage much to my relief.

I should have expected it, but I hadn't prepared myself for the possibility that he might not be tame. From our encounters outside I knew he was afraid of me, but many stray cats who are not "wild" are fearful of humans because of the abuse they often suffer at the hands of ignorant and unkind people. But Rubi (our name for him now) was petrifed. He was what I surmised to be about 75 percent feral. (Feral cats are not socialized to people. They are usually cats who have never had any positive human contact but can also be former pets who revert to a wild status.)

Rubicon was extremely gaunt, his eyes were dull with lots of scabs over them, and he was voraciously hungry. I continued to feed him as much food as he wanted by showing it into the cage as best I could, ignoring the hisses and "spits" he gave out, and poured water into his dish using a spout. After a few days we took the plunge and decided to get him into a carrier to take him to the vet for an exam and medical care. Of course as soon as he got out of the cage he ran around the room with no direction and tried to climb the walls as if this would give him safety. We used the knowledge we had about ferals and got him into the carrier with only minor injuries!!

I was saddened when Rubi turned out to be positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). FIV is a virus that suppresses a cat's immune system, comprising the cat's ability to fight off infection. FIV positive (+) cats are vulnerable to a wide range of bacteria, viruses, and fungi that normally are harmless to a healthy cat. Evidence suggests that the primary mode of transmission is through bite wounds, which may explain why free-roaming, un-neutered male cats, prone to territorial fighting, are most liable to get FIV. It is believed to only be spread through contact with the blood stream and is not believed to be spread through casual contact between cats. In fact, many people have both FIV positive and negative cats living in the same household. It is not transmittable to other species. A diagnosis of FIV is not necessarily cause for alarm. The virus has a relatively long incubation period and many FIV+ cats live happily and healthily for many years. The fact that Rubi was FIV + meant he couldn't be adopted out through our adoption program, nor could he ethically be returned outdoors. So he was granted "sanctuary" status and is one of the dozens of sanctuary cats A.C.A.T. takes care of. - **Continued on Page 5**

Board Members :

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Sanctuary Program Dir.

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Dir. for Finance

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Dir. for Outreach &
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2010 Raffle Prizes as of 6/27/10

- Handmade crocheted afghan courtesy of Julie Buckalew - \$300
- 2 tickets courtesy of Santa Fe Opera - \$214
- 3 month full membership courtesy of Cedar Crest Fitness Center - \$110
- One hour massage courtesy of Bob Kelley - \$150
- Cut and color courtesy of Molly Erickson of Brilliant Styling Salon - \$100
- Physical exam and microchip courtesy of Uptown Cat Hospital - \$90
- 2 tickets courtesy of New Mexico Symphony Orchestra - \$80
- 4 Isotopes tickets courtesy of First Financial Credit Union - \$45
- Gift certificate courtesy of Hinkle Family Fun Center - \$69.50
- Mani & pedicures courtesy of Kerry Dixon of Brilliant Styling Salon - \$60
- UNM Lobos football tickets - 2 sets of 4 - \$56 each set
- 2 ride passes courtesy of Cliff's Amusement Park - \$50
- Cut and style courtesy of Constance of Cruz's Hair Studio - \$35
- Gift certificate and travel mug courtesy of Dion's - \$25
- Gift certificates courtesy of Octopus Car Wash- 3 at \$20 each
- Autographed copies of "Kitty City" courtesy of Judy Chigaco - 6 @ \$26.95 each
- Handmade glass bead necklace and bracelet courtesy of Margaret Smith - \$20
- Gift certificate courtesy of Just Muffin Around - \$20
- "Hurdlers" in aluminum courtesy of Mike Rudahl - \$25
- Manicure courtesy of Brianna of Cruz's Hair Studio
- Manicure courtesy of Brenda of Cruz's Hair Studio
- Gift certificates courtesy of Cracker Barrel - 2 sets of 2
- Gift certificates courtesy of Sweet Tomatoes - 3 sets of 2
- Gift certificates courtesy of Sandia Chile Grill - 2 sets of 2



YARD / BAKE SALE SUCCESS!

WOW! Everyone really came together to help the kitties through our HUGE yard sale! We had tons of donations, lots of great help, a great location and food (breakfast and lunch for the volunteers) as well! A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to everyone! We couldn't do it without you! Volunteers, donors and supporters. *A special thank you to Peggy and Bob for again hosting our yard sale.* We

realize it's a ton of work, so THANK YOU ALL for making it happen one more time!



Still Raffle time!

We are continuing to look for raffle prize donations, so if you know anyone who owns a restaurant, salon, entertainment venue or any place you like to go, please ask them if they'd like to donate. Since A.C.A.T. is a registered non-profit, their donation is a tax write-off! We are asking for your help selling tickets too! ***Just 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. Aug. 22nd!

Thank you to the City of ABQ, ABQ Journal and PETCO!!!

Once again, the Fetch-A-Palooza was a huge success! In 2 days, all the groups combined adopted over 500 pets! They provided us with a great location for our gift table and as always, we made money for the cats in our care. We are looking forward to many more years of this event!

A.C.A.T. loves Bookworks!

Bookworks had a book signing for the series "Warriors", by Erin Hunter. A series of books about feral cats and their colonies. We were lucky to be invited to this great event! We spread the word about caring for and the importance of spaying and neutering feral cats (always VERY important) and made a little money with a few gift sales! Go visit Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande, for "Warriors"!

\$2 each or 6 for \$10

Annual Raffle



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

A.C.A.T. ALBUQUERQUE
CAT ACTION TEAM
Helping Cats & Their People

Zip: _____ Email: _____

\$2 each or 6 for \$10

Annual Raffle



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

A.C.A.T. ALBUQUERQUE
CAT ACTION TEAM
Helping Cats & Their People

Zip: _____ Email: _____

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Annual Raffle



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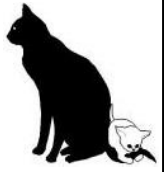
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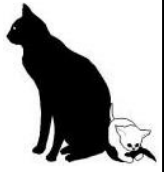
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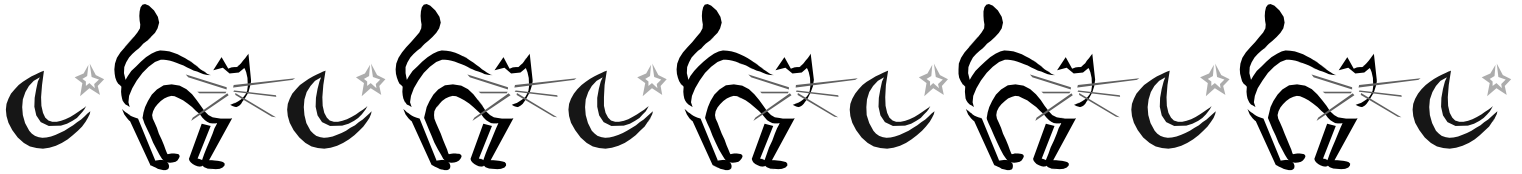
LST PROGRAM (LOW COST STERILIZATION)

Spay/neuter (sterilization) education is VERY important so we offer our services to the public through our low cost spay/neuter program. You pay a fraction of the cost that a veterinarian normally charges. This program is good for everyone and their kitties. We are one of the very few groups that offer this program without a low income requirement! Domestic, feral, male, female, all ages, colors and sizes... we don't discriminate! Imagine a city where all groups did this. We would not need rescue groups because the cats would already be spayed/neutered and we'd have far fewer kittens born each year! If you or anyone you know need these services, please call 505-323-2228 or email Mail@AlbCat.com!

SANCTUARY PROGRAM

A.C.A.T. has no actual location for all sanctuary cats, but we do have "permanent foster homes" for these 26 unadoptable cats. These truly giving people have committed to keep these kitties for life and A.C.A.T. has agreed to pay for the food, litter, medical care, beds and toys for these cats. They are considered unadoptable for various reasons. Behavioral, abuse, feral and health issues. All of these cats are leading happy lives where they are and, most importantly, they are safe!

We have committed to care for these cats for life so they still need you! You can sponsor any of these cats by pledging a certain amount each month or a one time donation! Please be sure to specify which kitty! Visit our website www.AlbCat.com for the complete list of cats.



A TRIBUTE TO PAM RUSSELL-ONE OF THE TRUEST CAT LOVERS EVER

Pam Russell was one of the founding members of A.C.A.T. In her seven years with A.C.A.T as feral program coordinator, she did a fantastic job and sterilized over 2300 feral cats. She went well above the call of duty by helping numerous people trap cats and advising them how to take care of them. She never doubted that a small group of thoughtful, committed people could change the world--at least the world of Albuquerque's cats. She was always ready to help you if you needed assistance with a cat.

Anyone who knew Pam knew that her life passion was helping cats. Pam's love for cats and intense beliefs about taking care of all cats, not just feral cats, was well known throughout the animal rescue community in Albuquerque and even in other places in New Mexico and Colorado. Pam genuinely was a "true life cat angel". But not only was she a cat angel, protecting and caring for hundreds of cats--she literally was a cat magnet. Even shy, reclusive ones would come out and wrap around her legs, jump in her lap and vie for her attention. She also would just "find" stray cats when she went on vacation. One trip to a Caribbean island included her taking care of two stray cats that "just happened" to make themselves known.

For as much as possible, Pam lived by "the Golden Rule." She was generous to a fault and kind beyond belief. In addition, she loved life, and was always able to turn negatives into positives. Her friends used to say she saw the world "through rose colored glasses".

Dolly Parton once said "I'm not offended by the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb...I also know I'm not blonde!!" This described Pam "to a T". Her high pitched voice, courtesy and genteel mannerisms often left the impression that she wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer. But that is far from the truth. Pam WAS the sharpest knife in the drawer. She just never felt the need to flaunt it.

Pam believed that one of the greatest gifts in life was to know the true value of a friend, and that it was important to choose friends wisely. "You can't choose your family, but you always choose your friends. Make this choice wisely." This was the last sentence of one of her favorite books.

All of us at A.C.A.T. mourn her sudden death at the end of November 2009. I especially do because she was my best friend--like family-- for 10 years.

~~Cindy Richards, Founder





Rubicon - Continued From Page 1

It took me several weeks but I realized Rubi wasn't feral; he was just a stray who had reverted to wild. I worked diligently to gain his trust and within 2 months his socialization seemed to be complete: he was purring and wanting lots of human attention. At that point, he seemed to miraculously become "a pet" and has been one of the sweetest and most loving cats I have ever known.

Today

As you may have noticed, Rubicon has only one eye. One day in May 2005 his eye ruptured, which the vet told me does happen to some FIV+ cats. He gets along just fine without it and also has arthritis in his hip and is losing his hearing a bit. But, what do you expect for a cat who is estimated to be 15 years old!!

A few months ago we almost lost Rubi because somehow he caught an upper respiratory infection that we unknowingly brought into the house. (We are exceedingly careful to not bring in any type of illness that our 3 FIV+ cats could catch.) He was in the hospital for 8 days but fortunately survived the virus and is back to his old self!!

Whatever happened to Rubi before he was rescued by A.C.A.T. is in the past. Now we just live in the present. And, one thing is certain: he is a loving and loved cat who will never again be harmed by people or by living outdoors. ~Cindy Richards

Pippi's Story - Originally Featured - Winter 2003

2003 - Meet a sweet little cat named Pippi. She came to A.C.A.T. after her owner passed away. She was very lucky that one of her owner's friends loves cats and was familiar with A.C.A.T. After several months of foster care Pippi, a ten-year old toothless sweetheart, found a wonderful new home.

May 2010—Pippi crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Her family writes:

"Sadly, Pippi left us on May 6, 2010.

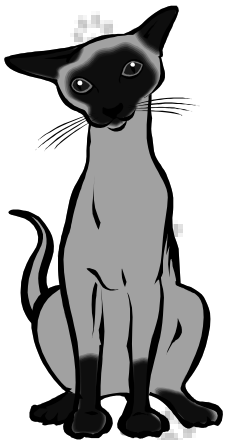
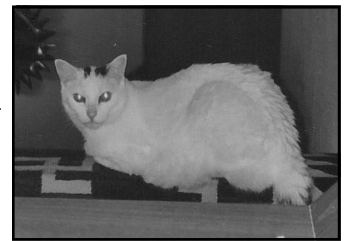
When you first sent Pippi to live with us, boy was I surprised. Here I thought I was getting a new play mate with no strings attached but good ole Pippi came into our home with litter box "issues", no teeth, no understanding of how to play and she needed to learn about not living on human food. We promised her she would have no more foster homes and that she was in store for a real comfortable retirement.

Pippi was smart and with her sweet disposition she learned about the joys of Fancy Feast. She let me teach her about chasing around the house and hide and seek. Our human pets taught her about the string game, the cardboard box game and other interesting stuff. We all learned ways to adapt to Pippi's litter box issues and over time, she became quite adept at "hitting the target". It took about a year but Pippi and I and our human pets became a very happy family.

When we moved to California,, Pippi and I loved our new home immediately. Although we didn't go outside, we had so many new types of birds, bunny pets and nightly coyote choirs, that we never lacked for interesting things to smell, watch and cackle at.

Thank you so much for sending Pippi to our home. She brought us all a lot of joy and comfort. I'm sort of lost without her and we all miss her so much. She made our home a happier place.

Sincerely, Felix the Cat Mitchell"



T.I.C.A. Cat Show!

We know it's early, but the next show is "On Safari", Oct. 22-24, 2010! Watch for it again in our fall newsletter!





Albuquerque Cat Action Team
 PO Box 51683
 Albuquerque, NM 87181-1683

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Helping Cats and Their People

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 FACEBOOK!**

Just type in the search bar "Albuquerque Cat Action Team" and "LIKE" our page! If you're not a member of Facebook, you can still follow the Facebook posts on www.AlbCat.com!

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

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
 HOME PHONE: _____
 WORK PHONE: _____
 DATE: _____
 CELL PHONE: _____

Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering for A.C.A.T. - please provide email address or phone # for this!
 (If you don't have the previous newsletter for the cats names, visit our website www.AlbCat.com for the list also!)

Sponsor-A-Cat, Name of cat (see previous newsletter for list of cats) and amount _____
 Friend (\$100) _____
 Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10) _____
 Active Volunteers (\$10) _____
 Guardian Angel (\$1000 or more) _____
 Star (\$500) _____
 Sponsor or Family (\$50) _____
 Individual (\$30) _____
 Hero (\$250) _____

Yes, I would like to become a member of A.C.A.T. in the following category (checks only please and make checks payable to A.C.A.T.):

A.C.A.T. (Albuquerque Cat Action Team) - P.O. Box 51683 - Albuquerque, NM 87181-1683
505-323-2228 (323-ACAT) or Mail@AlbCat.com www.AlbCat.com

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