



The A.C.A.T. Tale

Vol. 11, Issue 2

SUMMER 2011

A.C.A.T.

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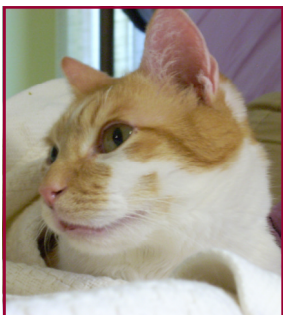
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NACHO - AN ANGEL IN A CAT'S BODY

~This is a tribute to Nacho, one very special A.C.A.T. sanctuary cat who crossed over the rainbow bridge on March 7, 2011~



Having fostered cats for 14 years I was accustomed to the routine: the cat would come to our home, the cage door would open and the kitty would very hesitantly come out and hide. I generally put them in our secluded cat room at first, taking into account if they needed to be isolated for a few days in a cat kennel or if it was ok to let it have the run of the room. He or she would spend at least a day exploring the surroundings and trying to figure out how many other cats were here.

But, this "routine" was not the case with Nacho. He didn't follow the usual pattern at all. When the cage door opened, out bounced this cute orange and white cat, showing no fear for his new surroundings or for the other cats all enveloping his cage. It was as if he had lived here all his life. Actually, he never showed fear of ANYTHING, which was alarming. He had no instincts to stay away from things that may harm him.

During his first week with us, we noticed that there was something physically different about him, (although this would take several years to be definitively diagnosed by a veterinarian). For example, he didn't walk like a cat---did not have the smooth, graceful gait and jumping skills that most cats have. Like a kitten, he never learned that it was not ok to bite down hard on a person's hand. He was also very clumsy and was forever trying to jump on things higher than his capability, or successfully jumping only to land in your plate of food, pull down a coaster with a drink on it, and so on. With Nacho, patience was essential. It took Nacho years to learn how to jump up two feet up to a cat perch and he never could climb the tall scratching posts with cubby holes that we have. We also knew his vision was impaired, but we didn't know in what ways. This of course affected his ability to successfully jump, and frequently he would stare blankly at one of us as if he could not understand who we were or where he was.

We found out that Nacho was brain damaged at birth because his mom carried a disease called panleukopenia. That's the medical term for what most people call "distemper." If a mom has the disease, has been exposed, or is carrying the disease, her kittens can get it in utero. They will most likely be born with various neurological problems because panleukopenia can cause cerebellar hypoplasia, a condition in where the cerebellum fails to achieve normal growth and development.

If they survive, they are affected in various ways---not all cats have the same problems. Nacho's problems caused him to have stunted growth and limited intellectual development, resembling that of a ten week old kitten. He was very small for a male cat, had a squarish face that resembled that of a Down's syndrome child, had serious vision problems, couldn't jump, had trouble learning any words like "no" (but he eventually did!) and was seriously on a mission to kill himself.

We had to make sure he wasn't in the dryer, hadn't gotten in the refrigerator when we had the door open, did not run out any open doors to the outside, wasn't near the oven door when it was open, etc.

After a few weeks went by, we realized that it was not in his best interest to be put up for adoption. He just required too much vigilance. Thus, he became an A.C.A.T. sanctuary cat who would live with us.

~Cont. on pg. 3



Tips to Help Save Your Cat in an Emergency

If disaster strikes, do you have a **good** emergency plan that includes the four-pawed members of your family? We aren't trying to be alarmists, but the recent disasters in Japan, New Zealand and Australia have pushed this important issue to the forefront of our minds. Many pet owners admit they need an emergency preparedness plan, but few people actually have one in place.

In creating a plan, consider all scenarios: what will you do if you're at home, at work, or on vacation when disaster strikes? Most importantly, how will you ensure the safety of your cats?



Here are five things to consider for your emergency preparedness pet plan that could save your cat's life:

1) Have one carrier for each of your cats on hand, easily accessible!

If you have more than a couple of cats, you probably have fewer carriers than you have cats. Cardboard Cat Carriers are inexpensive (just over \$8) and can be stored just about anywhere without taking up a lot of space. If you have a large home, consider storing carriers in several locations.

In the event of a disaster, your normally docile ball of fur can become frantic, so wrapping her in a towel to take her to the car or jamming her in a carrier with another cat is not usually an optimal solution, especially if you're trying to load up the car with valuables at the same time. In an emergency, you really need an easily accessible carrier for each pet.

2) Keep a flashlight in your nightstand.

The power may likely be out in the event of a fire, flood, tornado, or other disaster, so you'll need light to search for your pets before evacuating. In addition to a small flashlight in my nightstand, I keep a solar charged emergency flashlight on the windowsill. The emergency light also has AM/FM/NOAA Weather Radio and a mobile phone charger. A hand crank ensures that even when the juice is expended you can use the device.

3) Display a Pet Safety Alert Window Decal.

Make sure your pet count and descriptions are up-to-date. Often, you can get these window clings for free at pet expos, local shelters and the like. For example, you can order a FREE SAFETY PACK from the ASPCA online.

4) Microchip, tag and bell your cat(s).

A bell on a safety collar can help you locate a spooked cat even when there's no light to see. Even if your cat is an indoor cat, if you're not at home when disaster strikes, your cat could survive the disaster only to be hopelessly lost afterward. Microchipping is effective, but there's no guarantee that whoever finds your cat will think to take her to a vet or shelter to be scanned. An ID Tag provides instant identification that works in tandem with the microchip to help reunite you with your cat.

5) Create a Grab-and-Go file with your cat's medical records.

Also create an online backup. If your cat is on meds, do you know both what she's taking, and the dosage amount? Many pet owners do not. A widespread disaster could shut down your vet's office, so it's important to be able to provide your pet's medical records to another vet.

When there are evacuation centers set up for pets, you are likely to be asked for proof that they're up-to-date on shots in order to leave them there (similar to kennel protocols). We keep our most important files (cat records, tax records, birth certs, etc.) at the very front of our office file cabinet, bound with a giant rubber band (or a portable file case). They're easy to grab, and we don't have to think twice about what records we need.

Got a smart phone? Applications like [MyPetEd](#) provide immediate access to your pet's medical records.



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.

Your cat's heart will melt for these healthy tuna (or chicken) infused treats!



Nik Nak's Cat Treats

Ingredients

1/2 cup whole wheat flour
 1/2 cup nonfat powdered milk
 1/2 can tuna or 1/2 cup chopped chicken (cooked)
 1 teaspoon vegetable oil or cod liver oil
 1 egg, beaten
 1/4 cup water
 catnip (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease cookie sheets with cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, mash the tuna (or chicken) into small pieces. Then add flour and milk. Mix well.
3. After all is mixed, pour in water and oil. Mix well again.
4. Now, beat the egg in a separate dish until egg gets a foamy texture. Add to mix.
5. Mix well. (The dough mix will be sticky.)
6. Using your fingers, shape dough into small bite size balls, about the size of a marble. Put balls on the greased cookie sheets and flatten balls with hand
7. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove treats from oven, then wait five minutes and turn treats over so other side will cook. Bake 10 more minutes or until golden brown in color.
8. Place treats on cookie rack to cool. Cool for 15 minutes. NEVER give treats to your pet until cool enough to eat!

Note: You can add the catnip to the recipe or sprinkle on top of treats. They like it either way. Store them in an airtight container and keep treats in the fridge or a cool, dry place.

Nacho - Cont. from Pg. 1

Nacho had so many endearing qualities that it is difficult to pick just the right ones to give you an understanding of him. When he ran, he didn't run like a cat, but would wobble around looking like a bulldog because his ribcage was enlarged—it was quite amusing! It took several years for Nacho to learn how to play, but once he finally got the gist of it from the other cats he was a real "playmobile". His absolute favorite toy was what we called "his baby". Baby was a large orange toy cat that he would carry around the house dragging under his tummy. He would let out plaintive meows as he did this as if he was trying to find a safe place for "baby". We had three of them so he could always find one when he wanted to. It was so amusing to watch him carry this toy that was almost half his size, often 30 minutes at a time!!



Just like the school kid who has no friends, Nacho never got close to any of the other cats in our house. There was never a confrontation between him and another cat. It almost seemed that he was invisible to them. But most likely they knew he was different, and no threat, so he was left alone. He didn't seem to mind and did develop a sort of relationship with our oldest cat; we'd sometimes find them sleeping side by side in a chair.

Nacho was, well, there just really aren't other words to describe him: he was an angel in a cat's body. Never have I come across such a loving and special cat!! Every day he showered us with his unconditional love and was the happiest cat I've ever known. Each time I looked at him I saw a gold orb over his head. Someone said I was seeing an aura. Whatever it was, it was there from the first day we got him as a foster until the last day of his life. People who didn't even like cats always liked Nacho and I do believe many of my friends came by to visit just to have the chance to interact with him.

Nacho always had a respiratory ailment and he developed severe asthma later in life. Over a two year period it became increasingly worse and caused his heart to become grossly enlarged because it was trying to compensate for the lack of oxygen he was not getting. Eventually, it would take his life.

He blessed us with his presence for four and a half years. We enjoyed every minute with him (when we weren't trying to keep him from hurting himself!) and we tried every way to control his diseases. We were devastated when we found out his breathing capacity was very limited and his heart extremely enlarged, and that he could die at any moment. Fortunately we were home with him when his time came and could be there to love him until he no longer was in our midst. Nacho was truly a very special cat, and thanks to A.C.A.T.'s sanctuary program, he had many wonderful years to share with us.

We knew Nacho's time on earth was limited, but still, it came sooner than we expected or wanted. Nacho may not be in this world but he'll always be our angel. Now I can close my eyes and see him with the wings he earned here on earth because of his strength and never-ending love and perseverance when he had so many challenges to overcome. And I hope he is healthy, has lots of friends, and romps and jumps just like the other cats. But, still, no matter what, there will never be another Nacho.

~Cindy Richards



UPCOMING EVENTS

GRAND OPENING!

The City's East Side Animal Shelter is finished and their grand opening will be **Sat. 5/7, 10am-2pm, 8920 Lomas NE**. This will be a lot of fun, we'll have our A.C.A.T. gift table & face painter, there will also be food, vendors, tours of the new shelter and more!

OPEN HOUSE

VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital is holding an open house at their new location, **2740 Wyoming NE**, (at the corner of Wyoming and Candelaria) on **Sun. 5/15, 11am-3pm**. A.C.A.T. will be there with our gift table & face painter, other rescue groups will be there and VCA will be answering any questions you have about them, the company or their services!

Flying Star Café

We have TWO upcoming events at **8000 Paseo del Norte NE**.

- 1. Sun. 6/5, 9am-1pm** Adopt-A-Thon. We will have our gift table, face painter, the Red Cross will be teaching pet CPR and other rescue groups will be there too!
- 2. Tues. 6/21, 5-8pm** Come eat and they will donate 10% of their proceeds that night (5-8pm) to A.C.A.T.

Fetch-A-Palooza

The third annual Fetch will be held **Sat. 5/21, 10am-5pm & Sun. 5/22, 9am-4pm, at Journal Center, 7777 Jefferson NE**. Fetch brings rescue groups & thousands of homeless pets from all across the state to find them new loving homes! There'll be pet education, pet related businesses, kids activities, toy & nutritional giveaways & more, hosted by the Albuquerque Journal & the City of Albuquerque! Current pets are welcome to attend to help find your new addition! Stop by A.C.A.T.'s table!

A.C.A.T. YARD SALE!

Yes, another sale! It will be **July 9 & 10 at 8804 Harwood NE!** We are taking donations! Save all your stuff and drop it off at McKinney Mini Storage, 5825 McKinney NE (who donated the storage space). The drop off times are Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm and Saturdays 11-1pm. Call 505-323-ACAT (2228) or email Mail@AlbCat.com if you want to donate, volunteer to work the yard sale or sit at storage for donation collections!

Cliff's Amusement Park

Cliff's has provided us with ride passes to sell! Each pass sells for \$20 (regular price is \$27). The passes are good for any day during the 2011 season which runs from April to Sept. Go to www.Cliffs.net for the complete schedule. A.C.A.T. receives a donation for each pass sold! We will be selling the tickets at each of the events listed here and you can also contact us by phone or email to purchase the passes.

A.C.A.T wants to express our sincere gratitude to ABQ Mini Storage, 4715 McLeod NE 888-4441 for donating a storage unit for 11 years! Here's to you!

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

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian Angel (\$1000 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Active Volunteers (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Star (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor or Family (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hero (\$250) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$30) | |

Sponsor-A-Cat, Name of cat and amount _____
See previous newsletters or our website 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.

Raffle Tickets for Sale!

We are still looking for raffle prize donations to make the prize list HUGE! If you know anyone who owns a restaurant, salon, entertainment venue, or you have anywhere you like to go or anything you like to do, please ask the owner/mgr. 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 with questions! See the prize list!

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

Prize List

- Hand crocheted afghan courtesy of Julie Buckalew valued at \$300
- Handmade Laurel Birch quilt courtesy of Charlene Serbu valued at \$300
- 3 month full club membership courtesy of Cedar Crest Fitness valued at \$225
- 1 hour massage courtesy of Bob Kelley valued at \$150
- Cut and color courtesy of Molly Erickson of Brilliant Styling Salon valued at \$125
- Physical exam and microchip courtesy of Uptown Cat Hospital valued at \$90
- Private bath for two courtesy of Ten Thousand Waves valued at \$80
- Bag of goodies courtesy of Barnes & Noble valued at \$75
- Hinkle Family Fun Center - 2 sets of 10 miniature golf game coupons, each set valued at \$70
- Mani and pedicures courtesy of Kerry Dixon of Brilliant Styling Salon valued at \$65
- UNM Lady Lobos basketball tickets - 3 sets of 4 tickets, each set valued at \$60
- Gift certificate to Sandiego's or High Finance valued at \$60
- Trader Joe's goodie bag valued at \$45
- Haircut courtesy of Carolyn at I-Catchers Salon valued at \$35
- Dion's gift certificate and travel mug valued at \$35
- Southwestern style inlaid stone cat pin courtesy of Adair Beads valued at \$30
- Pirate kitty scarf courtesy of Cathy Peng valued at \$25
- "Tres Chic" jeweled cat t-shirt courtesy of Cats Unlimited valued at \$22
- Catnip cigars courtesy of Old Town Cat House - 4 sets of 3 cigars, each set valued at \$21
- Gift certificates courtesy of Saggio's Pizza, Pasta & Salad - 2 certificates, each valued at \$20
- Gift certificates courtesy of Rudy's BBQ - 2 certificates, each valued at \$20
- Cat reading courtesy of Bobbi Blass valued at \$20
- Palm reading courtesy of Brigitta valued at \$20
- White fluffy kitty print courtesy of Cathy Peng valued at \$18
- Cat toy container with 7 toys courtesy of ModernCat valued at \$18
- Gift certificate courtesy of Cravin' Cookies valued at \$15
- "Is My Cat OK" autographed books by Dr. Jeff Nichol - 10 books, each valued at \$14
- Set of 4 catnip toys courtesy of Wags 'N Wiggles valued at \$12
- Set of CD's courtesy of pianist / composer Kathleen Ryan

More prizes are coming!!

Board Members:

Craig Richards
President, Sanctuary Program Dir.

Jennifer Souhrada
VP / Secretary, Dir. for Outreach &
Volunteer Coordinator

Cindy Richards
VP / Treasurer, Dir. for Finance

**~~~~~
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**A HUGE Thanks  
to all our  
Generous Donors &  
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!

**Thank you McKinney Mini Storage for donating a storage unit for 3 months!!** If you have storage needs long or short term, go see Randy or Jayme and tell them A.C.A.T. sent you!

**McKinney Mini Storage**  
5825 McKinney NE, ABQ, NM 87109  
505-821-4070  
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**Got Too Much Stuff?  
Store It With Us!**

“If you’ve been lucky enough to have a special cat in your life, then you know there is a place called Cat Heaven.” ~ Cynthia Rylant

We want to express our gratitude to our corporate sponsors: McKinney Mini Storage, Uptown Cat Hospital, ABQ Mini Storage, Vetco, SpeedZone, MailQuik, and Canyon Crossroads for all they do to assist A.C.A.T. in all we do!