

Helping Cats and Their People

The A.C.A.T. Tale



FROM FERAL TO FAMILY



ANNIE M.

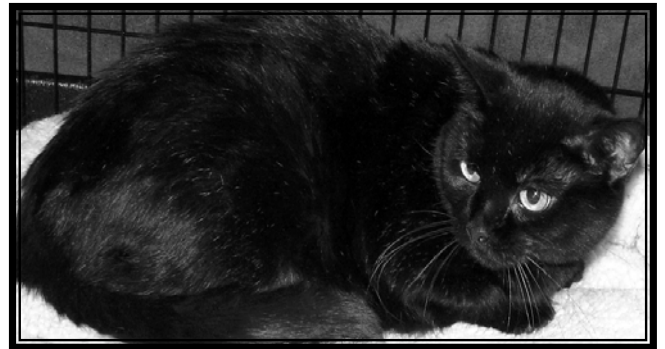
Annie is a gorgeous pastel calico. She was trapped near Central and San Mateo and then promptly gave birth to five little kittens. Annie was a wonderful mom.

She has always been sweet and friendly. It is thought that she was left behind when someone moved from some nearby apartments. Annie gets along very well with most other cats and is quite content to sit with you on the couch to keep you company or sit near the window and watch the birds. At four years old, Annie is a very calm mellow youngster. She would be a beautiful addition to a loving household.

**OCTOBER 16 IS FERAL CAT DAY.
CALL US AT 323-ACAT TO FIND OUT HOW
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

SASSAFRAS

Sassy was trapped in a backyard near Montgomery and Louisiana nursing four tiny kittens. Although her kittens tamed up nicely, she preferred to sit up in the top of the closet hissing and spitting. Suddenly after three months, she decided to give in and came out of the closet purring and wanting pats. It was like night and day.



Sassy is a big beautiful silky black girl. She has a lovely face. Although she is 10 years young she enjoys playing with toy mice and the feather-on-the-stick toys. She loves to be held and will follow you around until you give her enough pats. She is a little growly towards other adult cats at first, but actually gets along with them quite well. She loves kittens and thinks they all need help with grooming. She loves to lounge with you on the bed and to be cuddled. She is a gentle loving kitty with a sweet soul. She would make a special person a wonderful companion.

*A Quarterly
Publication of
The Albuquerque
Cat Action Team
Fall 2005
vol. 5, no. 3*

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is an unsocialized cat—a cat that was born outside and has never lived with a human family, or a house cat that has strayed from home and, over time, has thrown off the

effects of domestication and reverted to a wild state. See pages 3 and 5 for more “Feral to Family” articles. Once feral, not always feral, as you will learn...



The last cat I wanted Hannah to pick out was someone like Bruce. Hannah, our five-year old daughter, had been asking for a pet cat for some time. Worn down by her persistence, I finally took Hannah to the A.C.A.T. adoption day. In my mind, I had already chosen the perfect pet for Hannah: a newborn cuddly kitten. Hannah had other things in mind. No sooner did we pass by a set of cages than Hannah suddenly cried "Look Mama! He's the one!" Hannah pointed to a cage and I looked inside. There sat Bruce, covered in dandruff, except for a freshly shaved patch on the back of his shoulder, where stitches protruded from recent surgical drainage of an abscess and he looked too thin. "Oh, no, honey," I said to Hannah. "That is not 'the one.' How about these other ones?" "No, Mama," Hannah insisted. "I only want this one."

Reluctantly, we asked Jim Matthews to take Bruce out of the cage. I was hoping that Hannah, seeing the full Bruce out of his cage, would feel less comfortable around such a sad-looking cat. I was wrong. Jim placed Bruce into Hannah's lap. I tensed, hoping that Bruce wouldn't scratch her. He slowly stretched out his paws, gently hugging Hannah's legs, and looked straight at Hannah with wide eyes, as if to say, "If you take me home I won't disappoint you."

Now, three months later, Hannah and Bruce continue to adore each other. Bruce's appearance has changed dramatically. Gone is his dandruff and patchy fur and his body has filled out with regular meals. In fact, only two things remain the same: his constant willingness to hug—and be hugged by—Hannah, and his wide-eyed looks to her.

I want to thank A.C.A.T. for rescuing Bruce from a warehouse and giving him a chance to meet someone like Hannah, enabling Bruce to become part of our family. Bruce and Hannah are indeed best friends. He was the one for her.
—The Massen Family

If stretching were wealth, the cat would be rich.

—African proverb



Patty Duke—now Serafina

Our six year old Sarah wanted a cat. We had heard about cats being shown at Petco and decided to check it out. Sarah was drawn to a tabby with a sweet face named Patty Duke. When we took her in the back to meet her and hold her we found her personality was just as sweet as her face. Sarah just fell in love with her. She has become such a special addition to our family. She sleeps with Sarah, plays fetch and comes when called. It is amazing how smart she is and how much she understands when you talk to her.

We were surprised to find out that Patty Duke, renamed Serafina by Sarah, was a kitty raised from a kitten in one of A.C.A.T.'s managed feral colonies. Many thanks to A.C.A.T. for making it possible for us to know and love such a gentle, affectionate kitty.
—The Dooley Family



Mr. Bigglesworth



HEALTH ALERT: MINOXIDIL CAN BE POISONOUS TO CATS

Topical solutions containing minoxidil, used to promote hair growth in humans, can pose potentially serious health risks to our feline companions.

Exposure to minoxidil can result in lethargy, a severe drop in blood pressure, fluid in the lungs and damage to the heart muscle, which can result in

death from cardiac failure.

Lethargy and a drop in blood pressure typically develop within about 12 hours, and the cardiac effects generally occur three to four days following the exposure if treatment is not sought quickly.

NOTE: Never apply Minoxidil products to your pets;

human application of the solution should occur in a room not accessible to pets; do not allow pets to lick treated areas; and clean up spills promptly. If your cat has come into contact with a Minoxidil-containing preparation, immediately contact your veterinarian. (www.aspca.org)

Mr. Bigglesworth and Mini-Mr. Bigglesworth appear in the Austin Powers movies. Three Sphinx cats shared the roles, with the adult part going to Ted Nude-gent and Mel Gibskin, and the mini role belonging to three month-old Grogg. Trainers instructed the actors on how to gently handle and hold the animals and wrapped them in blankets for comfort between each take. During a flashback sequence, a 12 week-old white Persian kitten named Chloe played the role of baby Mr. Bigglesworth.

Living with (former) Ferals: Stories from Adopters



Working at the Car Wash

Shoshoni was trapped five years ago at a car-wash, along with her sister and mother who were both deaf. Shoshoni was a fiercely feral 12-week old kitten when we got her, but with constant love, attention, and patience, she has blossomed into a loving, sweet, and sensitive cat. Her trust of people developed slowly, but each year Shoshoni becomes more trusting and loving--now she loves to greet everyone who comes over. We are glad she is part of our family!

*A cat
sleeps fat,
yet walks thin.*

Mellow Yellow

Mellow Yellow was trapped a year ago at a feral colony when he was about 4 months old. He was extremely shy and leery of all people at first, and had a bit of a problem realizing that it is not o.k. to bite humans! He is still very particular about coming out when strangers are in the house, but he is the funniest and most diplomatic cat we have. He gets along with all the other cats and is just happy to have one of them wash his face, or chase him through the house playing leap-frog and tag. Mellow Yellow also taught himself how to open doors, in a very acrobatic manner. We just love him dearly!



Mikey the Man

Huge, Handsome, Orange Mikey had taken up residence at Honeywell but would not be able to stay. A very dear supporter from Honeywell did not want to see him taken off to the pound to be destroyed, so one of our volunteers agreed to give him a try as a house cat.

Mikey was trapped, neutered, and relocated to a home with other cats. As you can see it was love at first sight. He still isn't crazy about being touched by humans, but he gets along great with the other cats in the house.

*I said I love you and that's forever
And this I promise from the heart
I could not love you any better
I love you just the way you are.
(remember who sang that one?)*

Harlowe and Gavin

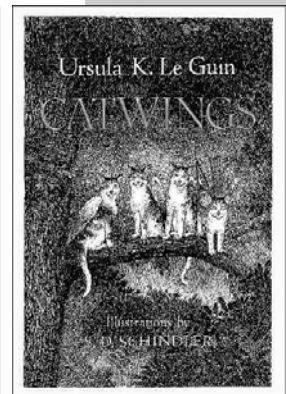
Has anyone ever seen these two former feral cats when they visited my house? No, because they remain extremely shy to strangers, but they love other cats, and visiting foster cats and kittens. Gavin does not like the Akita, but he likes the puppy because when he growls, the puppy backs up. So Gavin thinks he is BMOG (Big Man on Campus)! And Harlowe, she is my "snuggle bug". We love them just the way they are (sounds like that 70s song....)



CATWINGS—A BOOK REVIEW

Down an alley in a dumpster, Mrs. Jane Tabby gives birth to four kittens. But these are no ordinary offspring -- each has a pair of wings. Although she is unperturbed by her kittens' appearance, her neighbors are not so charitable; when the kittens are old enough to fly, Mrs. Tabby sends her children out into the world. Because both winged and four-footed creatures mistrust them, the kittens have trouble finding a place to live, but eventually discover a loving home.

(from Publishers Weekly)



National Feral Cat Day, October 16

National Feral Cat Day is a day to raise awareness of feral cats and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), inform the public, animal protection officials, and local governments about the solution to outdoor cat overpopulation, recruit new people and organizations into supporting and performing TNR, and celebrate feral cat caregivers. It was founded by Alley Cat Allies in 2001.

The 2005 theme is people's peaceful coexistence with feral cats and other animals. Please visit the official NFCD website, www.nationalferalcatday.org, to find out more about National Feral Cat Day, view all the Action Pack materials online, order and see what events are being held around the world.

*Please consider a
donation to help the
cats.*

*A.C.A.T.
P.O. Box 51683
Abq., NM 87181*

A.C.A.T. Events

October 8-9

Enchanted Cat Clubs Halloween (early) Show

Join A.C.A.T. at this year's Enchanted Cat Show sponsored by the Enchanted Cat Clubs, October 8-9th in the School Arts Building at the Expo New Mexico. Hours are Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 9-4. Admission prices are Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Children \$1.

This is the Enchanted Cat Clubs' annual benefit show and cat adopt-a thon. All proceeds from the show are used to benefit homeless Albuquerque cats. A.C.A.T. will bring cats and kittens for adoption this year as well as have its gift table.



Oct. 13

UNM Staff Volunteer Fair

UNM will have a Staff Volunteer Fair October 13th. A.C.A.T. participated in the past two fairs and made contacts with UNM staff to sign up volunteers and give out pet companionship information. If you are UNM Staff --please stop by and see us. This is an opportunity For UNM to find out more about A.C.A.T. and other community agencies in our area. See www.unm.edu/~pcs/volunteer_fair.html

Nov/Dec

A.C.A.T. Gift Wrapping and Ribboning

Have fun wrapping presents, join in at our popular fund raiser at Barnes and Noble, Coronado Mall. Times and dates during late November through Christmas Eve are forthcoming. This is a fun event, and we will have flexible schedules of two to four hour blocks. Watch the Website or call 323-ACAT to be added to the volunteer list.



Koenma, 2003



Quick Kitten Litterbox

If you have a kitten but only have "grown up" litter boxes... just grab that extra Frisbee! It works great as a tiny litter box. Be sure to use plain clay litter for the kittens - no clumping or scents for the babies!

Keep Your Cat Safe This Halloween

Don't let your cat get "spooked" this Halloween. Noisy trick-or-treaters can unintentionally frighten a cat, causing her to panic and run out the door and dart out into traffic. Little "ghosts and goblins" may bring along dogs or play pranks, further endangering outdoors cats. The best way to keep your cat safe this Halloween (*and every day*) is to **KEEP YOUR CAT INDOORS.**

If your cat is accustomed to going outdoors, or lives primarily outdoors, you can still plan ahead to keep him safe. It's as simple as keeping your cat indoors the entire day, or better yet, keeping him strictly indoors during the days leading up to and following Halloween.

Even cats that always stay indoors can be frightened on Halloween. The constant ringing of the doorbell is enough to scare even the most serene feline. So, during the evening of Halloween, put your cat in a quiet room with water, a litter box and toys. If your cat becomes anxious when confined to one room or from the unusual activity, stay with her or visit often throughout the evening. And if you are having a Halloween party, please secure your cats and label the room door, "Please Do Not Enter - Cats Inside."

George's Cat



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The Albuquerque Cat Action Team urges all cat owners to keep their cats as strictly indoor companions.



Living in the shadows

A.C.A.T.

Thousands of stray and feral cats live in the Albuquerque area eking out an existence, suffering in silence, unable to rise above the world they have been sadly born or cruelly thrust into. A.C.A.T. does its best to champion these unfortunates, as they truly have no one else.

We identify colonies, set up feeding stations and through our Feral/Stray Cat Program, spay, neuter, and provide emergency medical attention for these victims of the streets. As this newsletter goes to press we have spayed and neutered almost 700 cats in just over five years, but our work is far from being done. Please give as generously as you can to our Feral/Stray Cat Program, these little guys are depending on all of us. Please remember, your donations are tax deductible.

Albuquerque and New Mexico's first no-kill organization dedicated exclusively to enhancing the lives of stray, orphaned, abused and neglected cats.

What's the difference between feral and stray?

A **feral cat** is a cat who is born in the wild and has never known human contact. Feral cats flee, belly to the ground, when approached by potential predators. It is customary for feral cats to live together in a colony with a hierarchical structure. Typically, the colony is self sustaining and deters newcomers from the outside. Occasionally, stray cats wander in and either become accepted or are ostracized.

A **stray cat**, by contrast, is one who has had human contact but has been rendered homeless. Stray cats who have been homeless for a long time often revert to feral behavior. They can sometimes be tamed again if the duration of homelessness has not been terribly long but it varies depending upon the personality of the particular cat. Most cats, feral or domesticated, learn to trust humans when the cats are between 6 and 12 weeks of age. Many who work at taming feral cats consider this the critical window in which to work with kittens for optimal results in making them adoptable.



All cats in A.C.A.T. 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

Provide a safe haven in the form of foster homes for stray, orphaned, abused and neglected cats and kittens in the Albuquerque area.

Provide veterinary care to the cats in our program and ensure that all cats that are adopted through A.C.A.T. are spayed or neutered before adoption.

Unseen they suffer, unheard they cry, in agony they linger, in loneliness they die. Help make a difference in their lives.

Assist owners, through our surrender and adoption program, with re-housing their cats.

Your donations at work



Jacques Domino - trapped in a feral colony near the airport, Jacques had been attacked by a dog. His intestines were protruding from his abdomen. Fortunately we were able to get him before some trauma caused his intestines to burst or leak leading to a slow agonizing death.



Little Foxy - Found after being thrown in a ditch in the North Valley--it was discovered this little girl had a disease which caused her to be blind. Although she had very small gray orbs in place of eyes, the sockets were constantly full of puss and, if by chance she could have survived being blind, the infection would have weakened and killed her. Surgery was done to remove the masses in the sockets and the eyes were stitched closed.



Ronji - was being fed at one of our Feral feeding stations in the North Valley since he was a small kitten. He had disappeared for about a month and returned hopping - his back leg dangling with a bloody wound on it. After two days of trying to trap him, he was lured into a carrier with a can of food and swept off immediately to one of our wonderful vets. His leg had to be amputated due to the nature of the break and the amount of time it had been broken.

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, and provide counseling and advice regarding cat behavioral and care issues.

Provide low cost spay/neuter for low income cat owners.

WHAT COULD HAVE ENDED IN PAIN, SUFFERING AND LONELY DEATHS FOR THESE THREE LOVELY CATS WAS CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE GENEROSITY OF YOUR DONATIONS EAR-MARKED FOR THE FERAL/STRAY CAT PROGRAM. THEY NOW LIVE IN LOVING HOMES.

Adoption Clinics

Saturdays
11-4
@
PETCO

(San Mateo
&
Academy)



Even the dogs came to check out the bargains at the Yard Sale!

A.C.A.T. is a registered 501(c)(3) organization with the IRS and donations are deductible to the limit of the law.

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Past Events and Thank You's

Thank you to AMAYA

A heartfelt thank you is extended to Maria Amaya of Amaya Belly Dance Productions who benefited A.C.A.T. at her annual "Shake and Bake Belly Dancing and Feline Festival" at the MCM Elegante Hotel this summer. Amaya, New Mexico's premier belly dancer, invited A.C.A.T. to collect door donations, sell T-shirts and have our gift table, all of which benefited our cats and kittens.



The Fall Yard Sale was a success!! Thank you Volunteers, Members and Friends of A.C.A.T.!!!

A portion of our Yard Sale proceeds is being donated to the feline victims of Katrina through Alley Cat Allies' Compassion Fund, www.alleycat.org.

More Yard Sale thanks go to Debbie Di Santi and her divine baked goodies and Madame Zoro, master of the Tarot.



Nob Hill Shop and Stroll

A warm thank you to the Nob Hill merchants, especially, Gallery One & Pueblo Loft, and Abode. And to all the volunteers who participated in July and August.

Raffle Thanks

A big thank you to all of the donors to the A.C.A.T. Annual Raffle.

*Southwest Airlines
Chris Martín, The Cat Diva
New Mexico Quilters Association
Kelly Jo Designs, Inc.
Willow Creek
New Mexico Sports and Wellness
Sunflower Market
See's Candy
Sweet Tomatoes
Rory Armstrong, Yu Points Health Services
George Paloheimo
Miyanna Waters-Lackey
Kristin White
Maria Krause
Fran Lackey
Nancy Marano*



Also, thank you to those of you who purchased tickets. All of the money goes to help the cats and kittens.



Thank you to the UNM Student Activities Center for holding the Back to School Week Community Volunteer Day on August 27th. We dispensed information, recruited volunteers and met lots of great students, staff and faculty.



Thanks to the following corporate sponsors for their continued support.

Canyon Crossroads Animal Hospital
 Good Shepherd Animal Clinic
 Mobile Veterinary Services
 Northview Animal Hospital
 Albuquerque Cat Clinic
 VCA Veterinary Care
 Animal Hospital
 Village Veterinary Hospital
 VETCO on Menaul

Best Friends Pet Cremation Services
 PETCO
 The Enchanted Cat Club
 ABQ Mini Storage
 The Mechanic
 TJ's Camera & One Hour Photo
 Fast Signs on Menaul
 SpeedZone Print & Copy
 Honeywell



Some kittens that have found wonderful forever homes: (top) Lemnos, Thalia, Dominic, (bottom) Sperone, Opalia

And a special thank you to the following for their generous donations or member support.

New Memberships & Renewals

Nancy Kinney
 Chris Martín
 Gerry Martin
 Lenore Mastin
 Laurie Nelson
 Patricia Rathbone
 Pamela Russell
 William and Ruth Stamm
 Ilene Valtierra
 Jeanne Young

Donations and Sponsors, Non-Individual

Enchanted Cat Club
 Gap Foundation Gift Match Program
 Network for Good
 New Mexico Charities
 Nob Hill Business Association
 PETCO Foundation
 PNM Matching Gift Foundation
 Reveille Corporation
 United Way of Central NM

Donations: Individuals

Anita Berg
 Danielle Coen
 William and Patrice Dell
 Nathan Hendrix
 Thomas Lavandoski
 Diana Malott
 Nancy Marano
 Sandra Martone
 Molly J. Clithero-Massen and Dr. Richard Massen
 Mary Lou Mendenhall
 Antonette Mondragon
 Jerrie Pedersen
 Jonathan and Valerie Romney
 Pamela Russell
 Joanna Shelton
 James Smith
 Merry Stubblefield
 Paulette White

*Founder and President Emeritus
 Cindy Richards*

*President
 Pam Russell*

*Vice President & Recording Secretary
 Craig Richards*

*Secretary and Treasurer
 Sandra Barnes*

*Director of Internal Affairs
 Linda Sullivan*

*Director at Large/
 Foster Coordinator
 Jessica Morris*

*Director of External Affairs
 Susan McCosker*

*Director at Large/
 Clinic & Volunteer Coordinator
 Jim Matthews*

*Web Site
 Steve Kubica*

*Newsletter Layout
 Zuri Bennett*

*Voice Mail
 Laurie Nelson*

*In the loving memory
 of the sick and injured that we could not save.*

*Snowy, Woofie, Chocolate, Tiny Tina,
 Willy, Pearl, & Piaf*

CAT ALBUM

A.C.A.T. keeps a photo album of all available cats—this book travels to every event, so people can always check out our adoptable cats and kittens. It is also available to view at adoption clinics—since not all cats are shown every week.

ACAT HELPING CATS AND THEIR PEOPLE

"We want to express our gratitude to you for all of your help with our kitten Honeysuckle Rose and her mom Ruth. Honeysuckle Rose is a new baby now that she has had her eye surgery. She runs, climbs, plays and 'beats up' her siblings. She has a new and wonderful life because of your help. Thank you!" —The Millers



Two cats are a circus, three a coup, and six a revolution.

(And that equals eleven: Harlowe, Stumpy, Gavin, Raven, Lila, Hakkai, Kurokome, ZeZe, Yuki, Ashitaka, and Koenma)

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 (\$1000 or more)

_____ Sponsor or Family (\$50)

_____ Star (\$500)

_____ Individual (\$30)

_____ Hero (\$250)

_____ Students, Seniors, Low Income (\$10)

_____ Friend (\$100)

_____ Active Volunteers (\$10)

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

_____ Please check here if you would also like information on volunteering or fostering for A.C.A.T.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Date: _____

Cell Phone: _____

- Dues payable annually in advance of or at the annual meeting.
- 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.

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

Helping Cats and Their People

WWW.ALCAT.COM
WERE ON THE WEB!

