



STRAY CAT MEWS

The newsletter of Stray Cat Blues, Inc.

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www.straycatblues.petfinder.org

Winter 2008

VOLUNTEERS: THE REAL HEROES OF RESCUE

The volunteers who devote hours of their time to rescuing and caring for our cats are the very heart and soul of Stray Cat Blues, Inc. Their work covers a vast array of jobs from fostering cats in their homes, table staffing at our adoption centers every weekend, processing hundreds of adoption applications, emails and phone calls, cage cleaning, updating our website, paying our veterinary bills, fundraising, writing this newsletter - the list goes on.



SCBI foster volunteer Judy Gross with foster kitty, Heidi

We have about 80 names on our volunteer list and only about 50 of these people are the most active - their generous commitment of time, energy and love keeps this group running like a well-oiled small business that cares for about 1,200 cats a year. Many of these volunteers have been with SCBI for over a decade. No small task when you are doing all this work in addition to full-time paying jobs, family responsibilities and other hobbies.



SCBI foster volunteer Victoria Van Patten with foster kitty, Piaget

Why do we do it? Because we love cats and because there is a tremendous need in our communities to help the thousands of stray and abandoned cats that roam our streets and back alleys. Our shared interest in spaying and neutering as many cats as we can, addresses the need to help the cats and be conscientious citizens trying to make a difference in some small way.

Many adopters say to us - "the work you do is so wonderful." Our collective rescue response is this - rescue work is a two-way street. We can do some of the behind the scenes work to rescue the cats, but most importantly we need folks like you to adopt the cats and truly be the happy ending that makes us all feel good. We need your donations, too, so that we can continue doing what we do.

We also need your understanding. As an all volunteer group with limited financial resources, we cannot help everyone who calls us.

Our most annoying callers are the folks who expect us to take away all the cats on their property. When we tell them we can't do that and offer them our Trap, Neuter, Return, program to stem the breeding cycle of the colony -- they hang up. Our favorite callers are the people who will partner with us to help their stray cats. They willingly participate with our Trap, Neuter, Return program either with donations to pay for vet bills or even trapping the cats themselves after our training Neighbors in a North Wales development helped to trap 14 stray cats in their backyards. There were nine females in that colony. Imagine how many cats would have overrun that neighborhood next season if the people hadn't joined with Stray Cat Blues, Inc.?

So know this - we volunteer for SCBI because we are dedicated to rescue work. If you will join with us in any small way you can, then together we can make a difference. Happy holidays to you and all the people and animals you love.



SCBI foster volunteer Bill Couture with foster kitty, Anna

Purrfect Smile for Santa

It's Santa Photo time again at PetsMart, North Wales.

You, your children and beloved pets can smile with our volunteer "Santa" and take home a festive digital photo in a holiday frame. The photo package costs only \$9.95 with your Pet Perks card (\$10.95 without the card)...and \$5 of that will be donated to Stray Cat Blues, Inc.

Our volunteers will be running the event on **Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 13, 14, 20 & 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Ho, ho, ho,
hope to see you there!



Barns Needed!

Our barn cat program seeks secure barn homes for cats that cannot be socialized to a home/family environment. These cats, like all our adoptable cats, are tested negative for FIV and FeLv. They are spayed/neutered, fully vaccinated, and bathed before delivery! We'll even provide a training cage to acclimate the cats to your property.

Our barn cats are truly free to good homes...and we mean good homes. Our barn cat coordinator is vigilant in ensuring the safety and secure placement of our barn cats.

Complete our Barn Cat adoption application online at our website www.straycatblues.petfinder.org.

2008 Statistics

From January to October, 541 Stray Cat Blues cats found their forever homes. In addition, 524 cats were sterilized as part of our trap-neuter-return program.



You Can Help!

Please help Stray Cat Blues, Inc. continue its community rescue and TNR work.

Your entire tax-deductible contribution goes directly to help cats. Be sure to include your name and address with your check made payable to *Stray Cat Blues, Inc.* The cats and SCBI volunteers are forever grateful. Send to:

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Colmar, PA 18915

SCBI is a non-profit PA corporation, tax exempt under IRC 501 (c) (3). The official registration and financial information of Stray Cat Blues, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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