

THE
CATalyst

FALL 2019

TREEHOUSEANIMALS.ORG



TREE HOUSE
HUMANE SOCIETY

6

NEW LOOK,
SAME HEART

11

LUCKY:

Splasher of Sunpuddles

**SPECIAL NEEDS CATS
NEED SPECIAL LOVE**

TREE HOUSE HUMANE
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FALL 2019

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CALENDAR

Cat'baret October 24, 5:30 pm to 9 pm

Join Tree House for our inaugural Cat'baret fundraiser where guests will enjoy live jazz, roaming magicians, and cat-inspired performances in a cabaret style. For tickets and more information, visit treehouseanimals.org/catbaret

Lights of Love December 7, 4 pm to 8 pm

Come visit our shelter during our annual holiday open house. This year we'll have games, holiday drinks made fresh in our cafe, and guided tours of our clinic facilities. Tickets are \$5 and all ages are welcome.

Volunteer Orientations October 22, November 5, and December 10, 5:30 pm to 7 pm; October 5 and November 16 at 10:30 am -12 noon

Be a part of our life-saving success!

Apply at www.treehouseanimals.org/volunteer and then come to one of our orientation sessions to get started!

Check our website frequently for some exciting upcoming events that haven't yet been scheduled, like comedy, kitty yoga, and meditation.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



OUR VISION: EVERY CAT THRIVES.

We've spent 48 years helping sick, injured and stray cats—and we're just getting started.

Much like the world around us, Tree House is constantly evolving. Nearing our 50th anniversary, we're committed to our vision: every cat thrives.

You'll notice some big changes happening, including a new logo and transformations inside and outside our shelter. Innovation has always been part of Tree House's DNA, and the best moments of Tree House come from the power of "we".

Our brand -- represented, in part, by a new logo -- speaks to this and reinforces our mission to:

- **Grow and empower our communities of caregivers** -- helping ordinary people do extraordinary things for animals, especially the most vulnerable.
- **Protect and nurture cats** where they best thrive and serve as a model for cat care.
- **Explore forward-thinking solutions** to do better by our community and our cats.

Tree House began as a labor of love when a small group of animal advocates devoted themselves to saving animals from homelessness and harm. Our work continues with as much passion and heart as it did when we first sheltered in private homes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We're grateful for your support of Tree House and invite you to join us for some exciting changes ahead. Stay tuned as we:

- Relaunch our website to make our basics better.
- Build an onsite cat colony so we can teach neighbors how to expand the "Comm-Cats" model in their community.
- Open a new community clinic offering affordable vet care.

Share our #TreeHousePride.

Raissa Allaire
Executive Director

ADOPTION SUCCESSES

So far in 2019, Tree House has placed almost 600 cats into homes. Here are some of our recent special needs success stories.



LEONARDO PESCATORE

In big news, Leonardo Pescatore was adopted in July! His adopter Debbie has this to say about the orange, FeLV+ boy who spent almost two years with us:

“He’s quite the cutie and is coming out of his shell with me slowly. He has started sleeping next to me and gets me up very early to feed him! He’s traded the Chicken Hat for a lovely bell collar as he’s so quiet, I needed to know where he was. He tends to stand right behind me when in the kitchen cooking. Thank you for caring for this boy so well.”

Congrats to Leo!

MUMPHREY

Mumphrey, now known as Don-Marcus, was trapped and placed into a loving home earlier this year. His adopter Marilyn says: "To kick off the new year, I adopted my third cat, Don-Marcus, who is the friendliest, sweetest, huggiest, most gentle feline you will ever meet. When I found out he was a stray and had been surviving on the street, I couldn't believe it. But within a few weeks, his scars healed, his paws got soft, his fur thickened up and he is now a shiny beauty." Don Marcus himself said, "My new family is awesome. It is clear that I have completed this family and have made them happier and healthier."

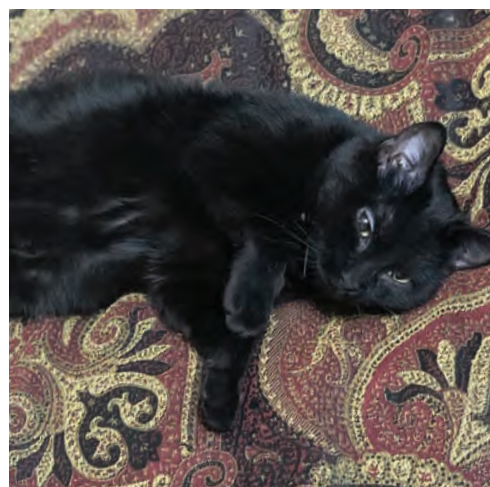


We love to keep up with our kitties in their new homes!

Send a photo and a few sentences with your cat's name and when s/he was adopted to marketing@treehouseanimals.org or tag us @treehousehumanesociety on Instagram after your new sidekick comes home for a chance to appear in our next newsletter.

TRISHA

Trisha, another of our FeLV success stories, is at home with Krystal, who said, "I loved Trisha from the moment I saw her picture on the Tree House website. She was covered in water! I'm quite the oddball and I was hoping for a kitty that would match my personality. When I met her, she was bubbly, friendly and fierce. She demanded sink time and then crawled on my shoulders when she was done. Once I learned that she was FeLV+, I struggled. However, I quickly realized that I couldn't leave her there. Such a beautiful, sweet kitty deserves a chance at a forever home and I knew I wanted to share my life with her. Trisha is my best friend and I couldn't have asked for a better kitty."



TUXEDO MASK

Now known as Freddie Percury, this one-eyed fellow caught the two eyes of his adopter Nick in 2016. He said, "He was a little maniac when I came to scout for an addition to the family. His energy and personality are so fun, even if he hardly makes a sound. He was fresh off his enucleation after being rescued by a Tree House neighbor. He still has a slight heart murmur, but it only needs to be checked during his annual vet visit. He was a little underweight when I brought him home, but he's since put on a few pounds and couldn't be happier with us and his brother, Farley." Looking good, Freddie!

CLEOPATRA

This little Tree House treasure is this month's cover girl and was going to be this quarter's featured kitty, but after seven months with us, she was adopted just before going to print! It is with great pleasure that we announce that our sweet Cleopatra has found the home of her dreams with a kind lady who provides her with carpets, gentle floors, and stairs that lead to her bed. Cleo was diagnosed with hind limb ataxia of unknown cause, so she sways from side to side as she walks and doesn't do well on slick floors. She'd been looking for the perfect home for awhile and we're proud to say she's finally found it.



NEW LOOK, SAME HEART

Tree House has a new logo to match our new building, and a new vision and mission to better serve our community, but the same love for the cats who need us.



1971



2008



TREE HOUSE
HUMANE SOCIETY

2019

You may have noticed from the front cover that our logo is different. You've probably noticed that a few other things are, as well: Our color palette, our mission and vision, our building. After serving us well since 2008, we decided it was time for a change to our logo, something that would capture the modern feel of the building in which we now reside that's pushing the boundaries of what a shelter can be: natural lighting, outdoor enclosures for the cats, on-site veterinary care, and a soon-to-be-finished public clinic that will offer service to animals of our community. We believe that all animals deserve medical care, and if their guardians can't afford it, we want to help. We believe that Feline-Leukemia-positive cats deserve homes and the chance to live their lives. We believe that feral cats out in our community deserve a chance at wellness and full bellies. We believe that every cat, no matter where they live, should thrive.

Tree House has always been forward-thinking, wondering how we can do more, even if it goes against the traditional methods, and we want our new look to reflect the future that all of our supporters have helped us to create with their donations and their time. So please meet our new logo and rest assured that we are still the same Tree House Humane Society you love, we just got a new hairdo.

OUR VISION:

Every cat thrives.

OUR MISSION:

We empower communities of caregivers to protect, nurture, and support new solutions so no cat suffers.

Our logo was created by the team at Critical Mass, who has so generously donated their time to us on multiple occasions. Critical Mass is a digital experience design agency with a relentless focus on the customer. For over two decades, Critical Mass has used design thinking, emerging technology, and customer empathy to drive engagement, loyalty, and business results for clients. Critical Mass and Tree House Humane Society formed a relationship back in 2015 after the agency's Chicago office held a "pro-bono hackathon," resulting in a web series and microsite intended to drive donations. When Tree House Humane Society reached out to Critical Mass this past spring to design a new logo, a small group of creatives—including Jaclyn Hammer, Evan Cole, and Elizabeth Wolfe—pounced on the opportunity, as Tree House Humane Society and Critical Mass share a passion for feline welfare.

HURRICANE DORIAN COMES TO CHICAGO

Tree House Partners with The Anti-Cruelty Society and Humane Society of the United States to give shelter to 89 animals seeking refuge from Hurricane Dorian.



When Hurricanes and storms batter our communities, animals as well as people are affected. If an animal is already homeless and in a shelter, they would become doubly homeless if neighbors across the country didn't step up and open their doors to rescue them for a second time. In May, Tree House took in 30 cats and kittens from the Oklahoma Storms that destroyed parts of the Midwest. In September, Tree House helped again.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) runs rescue efforts across the country when they become necessary, as they did during Hurricane Dorian. Shelters in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina were preparing for disaster and requested help to evacuate. It's not that the shelters themselves were in danger; it was rather that they were already full of animals, and with the storm threatening to displace so many people and their pets, they needed to create space to take in the animals who were lost so that they could keep them local and hopefully reunite them with their families. The animal welfare community learned something from Hurricane Katrina over a decade ago: picking up the animals from the streets and sending them across the country was likely separating displaced pets from their loving families who wanted them back. Instead, shelters now prepare space by sending already homeless pets to new shelters in neighboring states who can step in and help. The Anti-Cruelty Society, a friend of Tree House and a local shelter that's been serving Chicago since the 1800s, partners with HSUS to take in these animals, and from there, they reach out to other shelters in the area to help them, and that's where Tree House comes in.

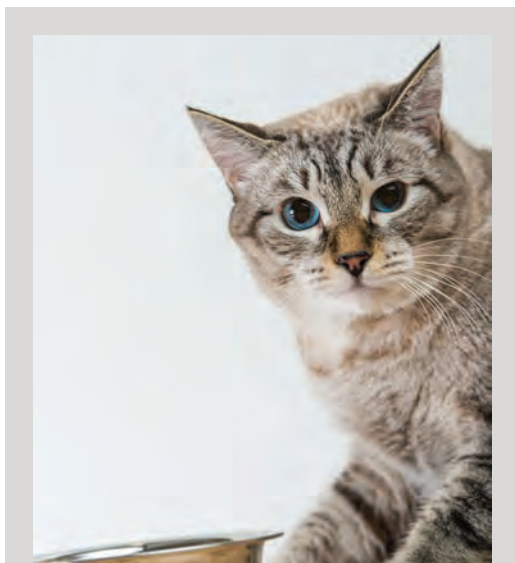
Eighty-nine cats and dogs made their way on a transport truck from Myrtle Beach to Chicago. They arrived scared, shaken, and needing baths after the long journey. Lines of volunteers and rescue workers were on site to receive the truck and help process and care for the animals. Already full to bursting due to the summer kitten season, Tree House was able to accept eight of the cats who so desperately wanted out of their carriers and into some loving arms. We brought them back, gave them the medical care they needed, and they're up for adoption and ready to go.

It's our vision to see every cat thrive, whether they are from Chicago, a neighboring suburb, or parts of the United States far away. We do all that we can for our neighbors and fellow animal welfare community members and hope that one day, should we ever need it, they would do the same for us.

FELV+ CATS GET RARE CHANCE AT TREE HOUSE



Felicia 's best "pick me" look.



HYPURRTHYROID IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE 2019 TREE HOUSE CAT'BARET!

Hypurrthyroid Treatment for Cats offers a one-time radiiodine treatment for feline hyperthyroidism
773-539-9080

In most cases, Feline Leukemia Virus, or FeLV, is a death sentence, not because the virus itself shortens a cat's lifespan (it does), but because most shelters do not have the capacity to care for the cats who harbor the illness. It's not common - 1-2% of the world's cat population has it - and until recently, it was considered to be extremely contagious. If a cat tested positive at a shelter, the cat was euthanized. Sadly, this still happens, but we know now that the illness isn't as contagious as once thought and Tree House is taking some big strides in providing shelter for these animals.

FeLV is a virus that sheds through bodily fluids such as saliva, urine, and feces and results in suppression of the immune system so that infected cats are less able to defend themselves against infections that normally don't concern a healthy cat. It is not a highly contagious virus as it cannot survive longer than a few hours in the environment outside of the cat. Once thought to be highly transmissible, we now know that healthy adult cats are essentially immune to the disease, and those most at risk are kittens and adult cats with weakened immune systems. Because shelter cats can often become stressed, and stress effects their immune systems, we separate our FeLV+ population from our FeLV- population of cats. We do, however, provide them shelter in two of our eleven total colonies. Tree House often takes admissions from other shelters who are unable to provide housing for these cats. There is currently no specific treatment for FeLV-infected cats and no cure.

The more of these cats we are able to adopt into loving homes, the more we are able to save. In order to promote that effort, we showcase our most outgoing FeLV+ cats in our Cat Cafe. Visitors who spend time with them are often surprised to learn that they are sick in any way because they are outgoing, energetic, and love to play, so much so that we were rated as the Best Animal Encounter of 2019 by *Chicago Magazine*.

If you're looking to adopt a kitty and don't mind that all the love and snuggles they have to offer will be condensed into a shorter time frame, then come visit and ask to meet the cats in colonies 10 and 11. We think you'll find them to be just perfect.

MEET DR. JONES

the new bearer of the chicken hat, passed down to him by its last successful wearer Leonardo Pescatore in the hopes that its magic will also work for dear little Dr. Jones. This cat has an advanced degree and is a blast at parties. What more could you want? Meet him in Colony 11, the Cat Cafe.

Join #ChickenHatProtest to show your solidarity for Dr. Jones and all FeLV+ cats.



LIFETIME CAT CAFE MEMBERSHIP TO FELV+ FOSTER HOMES

We can't increase space in our shelter, but we CAN increase our foster home availability. Your spare room can save a life, and it can get you free admission for life to our Cat Cafe for you and a family member and 10% off any drinks you buy. Picture it: you, your spare room, a very grateful FeLV+ cat, a hot coffee (or tea), a loved one, and a sea of appreciative people. Apply right now at treehouseanimals.org/foster.

CAFE HOURS: Thursday to Sunday, 12 pm to 6 pm

BOOK YOUR RESERVATION AT:
treehouseanimals.org/cafe

WOO! LIFE TIME CAFE MEMBERSHIP!

TREE HOUSE OFFERS NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR TEENS



by Shannon Gonzalez, Volunteer Coordinator

Tree House welcomed its first group of independent volunteers in the summer session of the Junior Volunteer Program. Over a period of six weeks, junior volunteers were given the opportunity to learn about our mission, improve their animal handling skills, and support the shelter as both Caregivers assisting us in keeping our resident cats happy and healthy and as Data Entry Assistants helping maintain accurate record keeping of our clients and services.

Junior Volunteer Eleanor, a junior in high school, contributed over 40 hours of service to Tree House this summer and plans to remain an active volunteer. She shared, “Being a part of Tree House’s mission of seeing every cat thrive means that my immediate goal is to ensure that the quality of life of the cats in its care is the best it can be.” She added that her time at Tree House has allowed her to develop an appreciation for the varied personalities and preferences of our feline friends.

We are happy to offer an independent volunteer opportunity for teens in our community and are looking forward to the upcoming fall session where Junior Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in the adoption process as well as in our Cat Cafe.



**HONORED
TO SUPPORT**

Accenture is proud to support the Tree House Humane Society. We salute its ongoing mission to empower communities of caregivers to protect, nurture and support new solutions so no cat suffers.

**accenture**

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



LUCKY

SPLASHER OF SUNPUDDLES

Lucky is one of those cats that really lives up to her name, most obviously because she has her own condo at Tree House and will forever be a Tree House cat, but also because this sweet girl was hit by a car earlier in life and made it through the ordeal. Fortune fixed it so that she survived, of course, but it left her with a slight problem of the posterior side that requires her to be on a wet food diet for ease of digestion. She's a lady and certainly wouldn't want us to give more detail than that at this time, but that's really all there is to know about it.

You'll find Lucky in a condo all to herself. She would prefer to live without the company of other cats, but she would love all the company that humans are willing to provide to her. She desperately loves sunshine puddles, and as fate would have it, her condo has a giant window that allows her to splash in them all day. One of our volunteers, Bill, left us a note about her that says, "When the sun is shining in the afternoon, Lucky basks in it like a sunbather. I think she might like some sunglasses." We think the same might be true, but sunglasses aren't something that we have lying around for all of our cats, so we hope her

A kind supporter sponsored her adoption fee, so there's one less barrier standing between you and her.

future adopter will be so kind as to furnish those for her.

This dear girl has been at Tree House just over a year now, returned from her previous home because her adopters felt that they couldn't care for her with all the love and attention that she wanted and deserves. Since this little treasure is tucked away in a condo, as one does with items of great value, Lucky doesn't get as many eyes on her as she should, so we hope that next time you visit Tree House, you'll peek through her window and see if she's accepting visitors. She might even have a sun puddle that she'd be willing to share. And in further fortuitous news, a kind supporter sponsored her adoption fee, so there's one less barrier standing between you and her.

MEET TREE HOUSE

CHRISTINE HOLT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



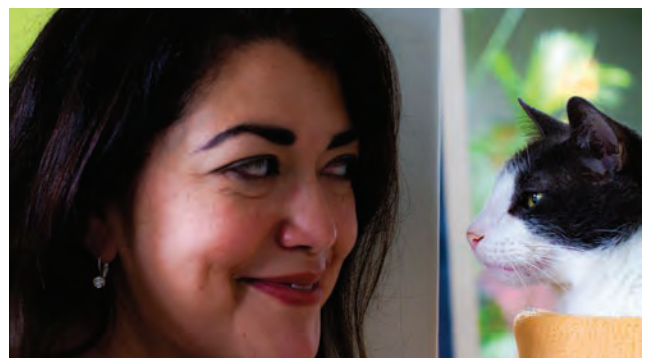
Tree House's new Director of Development, Christine Holt, started in January of this year and has brought a bright new outlook to her department. Christine partners with donors to help Tree House further our vision to see every cat thrive. She acts as the liaison with Tree House partners, our Board of Directors, and our Executive Director to strengthen relationships that result in positive financial health for Tree House. "This organization deserves the best support possible," Christine said, "to make sure our mission expands."

During the next few years, Christine wants to connect with people who understand the power and importance of planned giving, which can so positively impact our organization's future plans to care for cats. Prior to Tree House, Christine worked in human services, specifically focused on Chicagoans experiencing poverty or homelessness. Tying into that, she wants to see Tree House build

strong support for people who need help getting basic care for their cats and dogs, and she sees an opportunity to do that with the opening of our public spay-neuter & wellness clinic, coming in 2021. "It's time to make it easier for people to keep their animals healthy," Christine said. She will help make sure we have the funding necessary to serve local neighbors who can't otherwise afford basic wellness care for their animals.

Christine has only been with Tree House in her current role for less than a year, but she's been a fan of Tree House since adopting "Nikita" in 2014. We're certain he's quite proud of his mom's desire to help his alma mater grow. As an organization of animal lovers, Christine fits in well and says that one of the most touching things she has seen in her time here is when people go out of their way to protect cats. "Every day, I interact with Tree House partners who take action from a mindset of, 'If not me, then who?' They are phenomenal." She added, "the people of Tree House are the power of Tree House. I'm so thankful to be part of a team of volunteers, donors, and staff who back up good intentions with effective action. It's a joy!"

***Would you like to discuss planned giving?
Call Christine at (773) 262-4000 or email
her at cholt@treehouseanimals.org***



Christine and Brutus, an adoptable Tree House cat.

Q&A

WITH DONOR ELIZABETH J. MACKAY

How did you get involved with Tree House?

In the early 1980s on a business trip to Chicago, I visited Tree House on Carmen Avenue. I was incredibly impressed by the way Tree House identified cats with socialization problems, for example, and separated the FIV cats from the general population, which was cageless. To this day, whether the TNR or working cats programs, Tree House always seems to be on the cutting edge of humane and realistic practices that set the standard for other shelters.



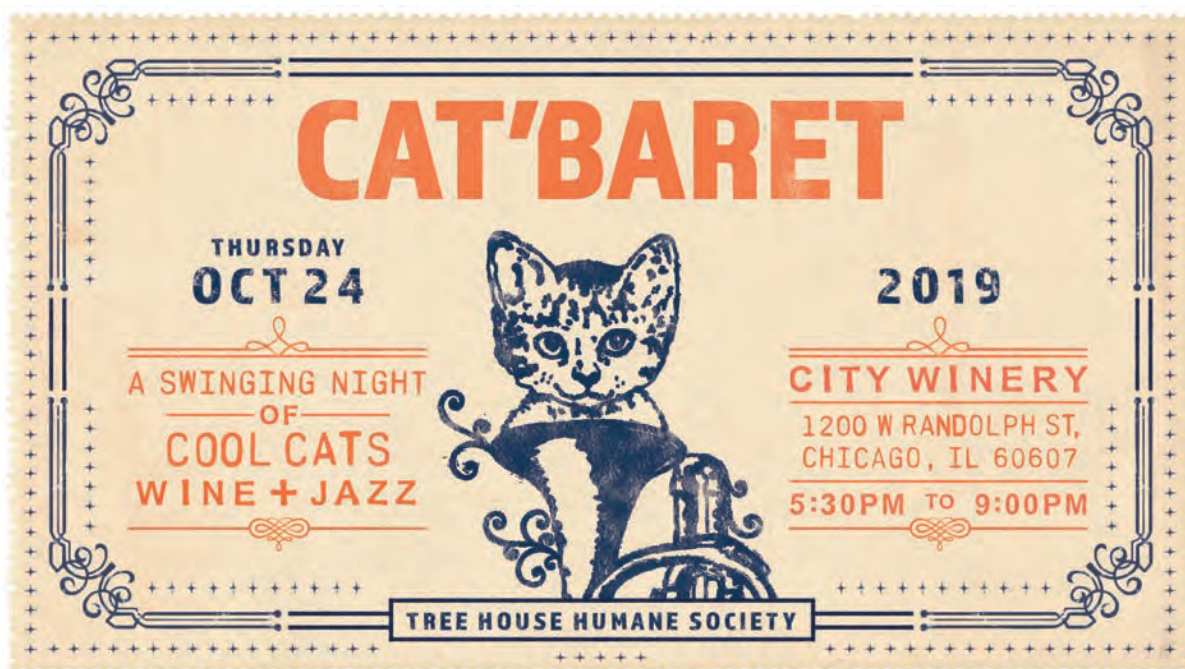
Elizabeth's Cats Zabete & Vivienne.

Which of the Tree House programs are you most interested in, and why?

I initially sponsored special needs cats on a monthly basis. When the capital campaign was unveiled for the current facility, however, I became a larger “investor” in Tree House. Once again, the facility included state-of-the-art features, including the on-site veterinary services that truly set Tree House apart. That the services will extend to the community only enlarges the significant sense of purpose at Tree House.

How does your partnership with Tree House make you feel?

My husband Joe and I had great fun at the three Black Cat Balls we attended before he suddenly passed away. In lieu of flowers for his funeral, I asked that contributions be sent to Tree House. When I visit Tree House now, it gives me great joy to enter “JoJo’s Playhouse,” the room I dedicated to Joe and to watch the antics of the kittens for adoption in the “Playhouse.”



HOW TO HELP AN INJURED ANIMAL OUTDOORS

by Sarah Liss, Community Cats Manager



*****If you find a seriously injured animal outside that you cannot handle or cannot currently help, please call animal control*****

Finding an injured cat outside can be a very difficult situation. However, there are steps you can take to ensure that an injured cat gets the care and help they need. This article focuses specifically on situations that are not life threatening.

SOCIAL CATS

The first step in these situations is to determine whether the cat is social or feral. If a cat is social, do your best to very carefully place them into a carrier. Social cats can be taken to any vet office or emergency clinic to be looked at, and you are welcome to give Tree House a call for further guidance and next steps. In some cases, we may be able to help immediately or we can schedule colony caretakers for an admission once the cat has seen a vet. If you are not a colony caretaker registered with Tree House, we can provide you with a list of other shelters in the Chicagoland area. The kitty can also be taken to Chicago Animal Care and Control where treatment can be provided.

TRAPPING A FERAL CAT

If a cat is feral, a trap will likely be required. If a cat is hesitant or has difficulty getting into a standard trap on their own, it would be best to use a drop trap, which tends to be more successful because you control when the trap shuts. Both standard traps and drop traps can be rented at Tree House and we are happy to show you how to use either!

CHOOSING THE RIGHT VET

Not all vets are able to treat feral cats, so reach out to Tree House for a list of qualified veterinarians in the Chicagoland area. If you don't live in Chicago, call your local shelter or clinic first to see if they can refer you to the best place.

CARE AND RECOVERY

At the vet's office, a plan will be made to help the cat recover, if possible. Unfortunately, there are times when a feral cat's injuries are too severe to recuperate from without putting the cat through copious amounts of stress. In these cases, a vet may recommend euthanasia. However, in many cases, a vet may evaluate a cat and find that they are fine to return back outside with minor treatment that can be provided at the time of the appointment. If a feral cat's injury is serious but treatable, a vet may recommend that the cat be quarantined to a cage for recovery. You will want to place the cage in the quietest area of your home and provide a hiding place within. A cat carrier works well, as you can close the door anytime you need to clean the cage.

While there isn't a standard plan in place for these kinds of situations and each one is unique, your help can be life-saving for a cat in need. Always feel free to contact Tree House if you have any questions.

Contact Tree House to get TNR counseling or to become a registered Colony Caretaker!

ASK THE EXPERT



DR. EMILY

Dr. Emily Swiniarski is Tree House's Director of Veterinary Services. She graduated from Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, did a specialty internship in Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and has worked across the country in small to large shelter organizations. Her passions include infectious disease, care of community cats, and teaching.



Is living with an FeLV+ cat different and how? What special precautions would I need to take if I were to adopt one?

Living with a FeLV+ cat will not feel any different than living with a cat without FeLV day to day. FeLV+ cats love to snuggle, play and have wonderful distinct personalities like the rest. They can live with any other pet, although it is not generally recommended for FeLV+ cats to live with other cats that do not have the disease (this is possible however, so speak with Tree House and/or your veterinarian if interested). As long as you bring your cat to the vet (at least) every year, provide vaccines and a good quality diet, you are providing the best for your new FeLV+ cat!

Should I adopt a cat who needs medication daily? How will it affect my life?

Adopting a cat who needs medication daily can be daunting, but once you get into a routine with your new pet, it becomes a lot easier. The vast majority of medications can be adjusted to fit your daily work/life schedule. There are several considerations before adoption. When you go on vacation, your kitty will need a petsitter daily. Medications may be given as a liquid, pill, or even an injection, so work with shelter staff to understand how the medication is given. Here at Tree House, we know our cats well and how they

best receive their medication.

Lots of cats will even eat the medication in a treat! Also, consider the extra costs. If a cat is on medication daily, they will likely need to go to the veterinarian at least twice per year. Many medications are very affordable but make sure to ask for more information so you can ensure the cat's needs fit your budget.

My cat is 20 years old. Do senior cats have any special requirements to make their lives more comfortable?

Senior cats are amazing, but there are a couple things to watch for. Senior cats must go to the veterinarian at least yearly, and ideally twice yearly. Even though your cat is older, he/she still needs routine veterinary care with vaccinations, nail trims and preventives. Any change in behavior or any medical concerns means your cat needs to go to the veterinarian right away. All senior cats should be given multiple well-cushioned places to lay and litter boxes with at least two inches deep of soft litter, as they very frequently develop arthritis. Cats often hide their symptoms, so watch for the following: stops jumping on furniture or other places; now needs help climbing up onto things; changes his/her litter box habits; loss of muscle so legs look bony and scrawny; cannot groom as well as he/she used to.



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A time to honor &
remember friends,
family, & cherished pets



Saturday, December 7, 2019
4PM-8PM
Tickets \$5

Get tickets at treehousanimals.org/LightsofLove