

THE
CATalyst

WINTER 2020



TREE HOUSE
HUMANE SOCIETY

TREEHOUSEANIMALS.ORG

**NEW YEAR,
NEW FRIEND**

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OBESITY IN CATS

Why "Chonky" Isn't Really That Cute

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CALENDAR

Helping Community Cats Through TNR Presentation

January 23, 2020, 4 pm to 5 pm

Chicago Public Library, Manning Branch
6 S Hoyne Ave, Chicago, IL 60612

Cat Yoga Classes Beginning mid-January

Sundays, 10:15 am; Mondays, 5:30 pm

Check the Tree House website for more details and dates.

Volunteer Orientations January 18, February 15, and

March 14, 10:30 am to 12 pm

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 been scheduled yet.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working in animal welfare can be really exciting. Our staff are passionate about enhancing the quality of life of our cats and constantly push for new solutions to further our vision of seeing every cat thrive. Every day, we see examples of the power of our community being harnessed to build more compassionate neighborhoods.

Some of my recent favorite examples of this last year:

- A 10-year old Girl Scout who organizes her troop to build and decorate feral cat shelters
- The neighbor who coordinates his block to care for and feed a colony of outdoor cats
- The 70-year old woman who persuaded her knitting club to sew blankets for our kitties to bring them comfort while they wait for their new homes
- The kind and generous donor who has supported Tree House for many, many years and visits with us-- despite being highly allergic to cats

We're constantly challenged to rethink how we do things to keep up with changing technology, emerging community needs, and best practices. It takes many people, lots of reflection, and lots of sharing, both amongst ourselves and throughout our animal welfare partner organizations.

We subscribe to the belief: "A rising tide lifts all ships." From community podcasts to national animal welfare conferences, our staff in 2019 served as experts and resources on Feline Leukemia adoptions and innovative Community Cats programs. We also convened nearly 100 peers for day-long trainings on kitten care and the business of saving lives.

Like many of you, we at Tree House take this time to reflect on the past year as we turn the page, embark on 2020, and renew our commitment to the cats of our community.



So, what's on the horizon for this new year? Our overarching goal is to keep animals from coming into shelters in the first place, so we have embarked on planning for a new veterinary wellness center to open in 2021 that will provide high-volume spay/neuter and basic wellness services. We believe that by offering affordable vet care for our community's pets, we can keep more families together, and that includes both cats and dogs. You can learn more about the project at treehouseanimals.org/wellness.

We're in a new day, and we look forward to your continued partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raissa Allaire".

Raissa Allaire
Executive Director

ADOPTION SUCCESSES

In 2019, Tree House has placed more than 1,000 cats in homes and Cats At Work locations. Here are our success stories.



PRISCILLA

Priscilla is living the high life with her adopter Annette and family. "My name is Priscilla. I was adopted October 2018. Because I like to live without other animals, my new family lets me have the run of all 4 levels of our home, including the basement. I enjoy my element of having the comfort of love, peace and harmony. Thank you Tree House, for grooming me for this adoption. My family will continue to contribute to helping other rescues like myself secure a safe environment."

SASQUATCH

Tree House cat Sasquatch, now "Chunk," was recently adopted. His adopter Rebecca says, "He has been a fantastic addition to my house. His personality has not failed to show at all and is an absolute clown that loves to sit on top of everything. He reminds me daily that my sole purpose on this earth is to serve him as his full-time staff. He is my constant shadow and is never far away from me when I am home. I no longer run my house; this is Chunk's house. He is a love and I am so happy to have had him choose me. Thank you all so much for Chunk!"



ASHTON

Ashton, now Percy, was adopted in May 2018. His new family says, "When he stood on his hind legs to be petted at Tree House, it was love at first sight. We sing songs about Percy and make up words to include Percy's name daily. He's the sweetest and softest cat we have ever had. He's such a love bug and likes to help out with homework, as you can see. Percy makes every day more joyful."

We love to keep up with our kitties in their new homes!
Send a photo and 75-100 words with your cat's name and when s/he was adopted to marketing@treehouseanimals.org after your new sidekick comes home for a chance to appear in our next newsletter.

FLORENCE

Florence was adopted in September and wrote us a letter. "My name is Maude but some of you may know me as Florence. Tree House helped me out with a nasty cold in the fall and then introduced me to my new friend Claire. I am happy to report that I am a healthy old lady! The vet said so! Mostly, I am happy to help Claire out. I don't know what she would do without me! I am always sure to be at her side in case she needs me. Claire has never been friends with a cat before and I'm not sure this was what she was expecting... but she doesn't seem to mind. Tree House is the best for bringing us together!"



HENRY AND RAMEN

Two Tree House cats found a home together. Their family says, "We adopted Henry on a whim while visiting last year. He came straight up to my husband, laid down on his lap and that was it. He chose us to be his family and we are so grateful. Since then, Henry has brightened our lives! We didn't know it was possible for a cat to be so loving and so gentle." Shortly after, they found Ramen, now "Maisie," online at Tree House. "I immediately emailed the staff to meet her the next day. Turns out she was just what we needed and more." (And just recently, they adopted their third kitty Tolstoy, known at Tree House as "Pashtun.")

RINGO

One of our foster parents, Christina, fell in love with Ringo while she was fostering some kittens for us. She said, "Adopting him is one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. He is not like any other cat I have ever had. He greets me at the door, and he spends the entire night asleep in my arms. I call him my own little piece of sunshine because no matter what, once I'm near him, everything just seems better and a little brighter. He makes me so happy all of the time, and I love being his mom so much."



LILY

"As we excitedly signed papers to take Lily home, we heard a crash, and a harried volunteer confirmed that Lily had no interest in leaving her kitty condo at Tree House. Over the last year, she has grown from hiding in a sock drawer to morning cuddles and nose boops. A classic introvert, she hates getting brushed and having new people over, but meows for us to come play the minute that company leaves. We are so happy to have Lily!"

SETTING UP YOUR CAT'S NEW HOME

Ready to get your first cat? Prepare your home so it comfortably becomes her home, too. Adopting an additional kitty? You'll need a second set of many of the items listed below.

- Litter Box - at least one per cat
- Litter
- Litter Scoop
- Bed to call her own
- A place to hide
- Toys
- Catnip
- Food Bowl
- Water Bowl
- Scratching Post or Pad
- Food
- Brush
- Nail Trimmer
- Carrier



Tree House has many of these items available in an easy to grab Adoption Kit for purchase when you take home your new kitty. We also have other items available in our store that will help your new friend live their best life. Visit the shelter or shop online at <http://treehouseanimals.org/shop>

CAT'BARET SPONSORS

Tree House extends our deepest thanks to our 2019 Cat'baret sponsors. We couldn't have had such a smashing fundraiser without your support!

Presenting Sponsor: Accenture

- Pets First Veterinary Clinic
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- Merrick Pet Care
- Fifth Third Bank
- VCA Cat Hospital of Chicago
- Hypurthyroid Treatment for Cats
- Cody England
- IDEXX Laboratories

Bringing your cat home can be stressful because it's a new location filled with new sights, sounds, and smells. By following these tips, you can make things as stress-free as possible for all of you and make your new friend's transition to your home as silky smooth as their fur.

- **Go slow.** Introduce your cat to just one room to start and let her get used to the sounds and smells of your home from in there.
- **Follow your cat's lead.** If she seems shy and needs more time before exploring the rest of the house, let her have that. Older cats may need more time than kittens, but it really depends on your cat's individual personality. Let them lead.
- **Introduce other animals thoughtfully.** Don't spring a new friend on your resident animals without some careful introduction. Let them smell each other on either side of a closed door first and swap their blankets back and forth for a few days so they can associate each other's smells with comfort. Use plenty of treats and positive cues when giving them a visual on each other for the first time. Don't leave them alone together until you are absolutely sure they're comfortable. This could take a few weeks, but your patience could pay off with a life-long bond between them, so don't rush.
- **Love them!** We know we don't have to tell you that part, but the more love and gentle affection you give them during this time, the better your relationship will be.

LIGHTS OF LOVE

THE SHINING HIGHLIGHTS OF ITS 20TH YEAR



Our guests cheer as the lights are lit!



Our Executive Director Raissa Allaire talking with one of Tree House's original founders Susan Schien DiManno



"That all kitties of the world find love and happiness." **David**

If you didn't get a chance to stop by for Lights of Love, presented by Heal and VCA, this year, you missed one of our best! But don't you worry - we're going to give you the highlights right here.

First of all, we got a tremendous influx of tribute cards sent back to us this year. Volunteers and staff members strung the cards together like garland and hung them all around our shelter until the new year. Visitors were treated to reading the cards as they walked around the shelter, and staff were truly touched by the outpouring of love for animals and people that we got to see reflected in the writings.

The event itself positively sparked, both because of our lights but also because of the joyful attitudes of the guests we received that evening. Happenings during the event included tours of our clinic, visits to our cafe kitties, face painting, drawing Hats on Cats, photos with Saffy Claws, TNR demos, a Cats At Work display, live music from etc. Music School, and a serenade from Tree House staff and board members. We had amazing food donated by HUB



"I loved you all your life and will miss you all of mine. Always in my heart."

51, Wow Bao, Foodlife, and Stan's Donuts, and plenty of drinks from PepsiCo. Merrick also joined the ranks of sponsors who provided us with the funds and items we needed to throw an amazing open house, welcoming close to 300 people from our community.



Cards sent in by our supporters in honor and memory of loved ones

If you missed it, keep an eye out next December because we will definitely be doing it again and, dare we say, making it even better.



"May all cats find a safe and loving home as mine did. Thank you for all you do at Tree House." **Krista**

OBESITY IN CATS

WHY "CHONKY" ISN'T REALLY THAT CUTE



This is the look you'll get when you tell your cat he has to eat less. You must remain firm.

We've all seen overweight cats. Recently, they've been on the news and often, they're seen on Facebook as part of a meme or joke. However, the reality of obesity in cats isn't funny and can cause numerous health problems for the cat and his owner to handle.

Our resident Director of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Emily Swiniarski, has weighed in on the issue.

What are the challenges facing overweight cats?

Overweight cats are often less active due to pain as well as general sluggishness. Cats can be overweight at any age, but it is more difficult to help cats lose weight as seniors due to slower metabolism. Being overweight or obese can predispose cats to a variety of medical issues, including:

- skin disease (not able to groom properly)
- arthritis (pain in joints worsened by heavy weight)
- diabetes mellitus (serious hormone condition that usually requires insulin)
- behavioral concerns (cats that are not active will not be enriched and fulfilled in life)

What is a normal weight range for a cat?

This is highly variable depending on the size of the cat. For example, 10 pounds could be normal for one cat but considered obesity in another. What matters is the stature, muscling, and amount of fat of each individual cat.

How often do overweight cats enter the shelter?

Because Tree House takes stray cats, it is uncommon for cats to come in overweight. However, those that are overweight are almost always from a home

environment in which they were free fed, meaning unlimited food was out all the time.

What is an appropriate diet? Does age matter?

Kittens should be fed food designed for kittens or at least "all life stages." Look for that label on the food bag itself. If it only says "for adults," then the diet is not appropriate for your kitten. Kittens require higher fat and protein for growth.

Adult cats (generally speaking, 1 year or older) do not require as much fat and protein and should not be fed kitten diets. Any high quality diet designed for adult cats would be appropriate.

What does Tree House do for obese cats?

A veterinarian examines the cat to look for concurrent health concerns. The cat is then fed a controlled diet. The amount fed depends on the cat's current weight, ideal weight, and the specific diet being fed and is calculated by a veterinarian. Staff recheck the weight of the cat weekly at first, then every month to monitor for appropriate weight loss, adjusting diet, if necessary.

What is a long term plan for keeping cats slim and healthy?

Ask your veterinarian what the appropriate amount of food for your cat should be. "Restricted calorie" diets are not the best food choice for your cat - choose a high quality diet for cats, but control the amount of food fed. The bag of cat food often gives ranges for how much should be fed but these are not appropriate for most indoor cats. Enrich your cat's life with plenty of excitement - a variety of toys that are swapped out every week, for instance. Playing with your cat or using puzzle toys with food are excellent ways to stimulate exercise.

Do you think your cat is "chonky?" See your vet to make sure that your friend is in top health so you can spend as many years together as possible. The new year is a great time to set new goals to get healthy, and that should include your pet, too.

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

MAYBE

THIS IS YOUR NEW CAT

May we tell you something? Something great about a cat who has been at Tree House since November 2018? Actually, there are a few great things that we think could MAYbe make this cat perfect for you. Her name is June.

Just kidding, it's May.

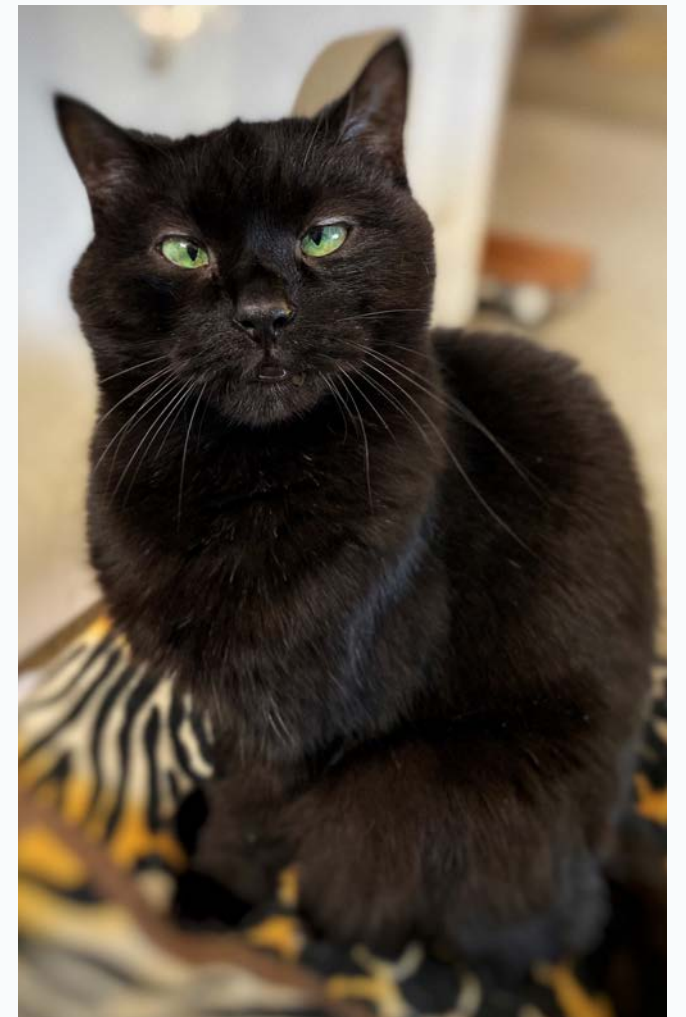
May was a stray whom Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) found one day. They sent her to Tree House to stay and play, but she's been here so long - please come get her today! And don't even worry about having to pay. Her fees have been sponsored. Hip hip hooray!

All May jokes aside (for now), May is now the longest stay cat at Tree House. As of publication, she's been hanging out in Colony 6 for 15 months. Being just over 11 years old, that's roughly 1/10th of her life. We're not sure where the previous part of her life was spent but we know that now that she's a Tree House cat, the rest of it will be taken care of. We just need to find her a very special home.

This lovely girl with the bewitching gaze is definitely getting into her golden years, so she has a touch of the old arthritis and is on a daily dose of Cosequin to make her movements a little more comfortable. She's also not a huge supporter of loud noises, so she's going to prefer a little more Michael Buble in her day and a little less Van Halen. Of course, that doesn't mean she doesn't rock out once in awhile. She does. She just wants to do it quietly, in a box, because boxes are totally her jam.

A house without kids would be ideal, as well, so if you happen to have this child-free, light FM music paradise that can accommodate her daily pill schedule and passion for cardboard, we think you are the one to answer her mayday.

So get in to Tree House and make today your May Day.



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ANNOUNCING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH VCA

Tree House is happy to announce that we have partnered with VCA Hospitals and, starting in the new year, all Tree House adopters will receive a certificate for a complimentary health exam at any Chicago-area VCA Hospital. The certificate also includes complimentary follow-up care for common shelter ailments such as upper respiratory infections, diarrhea, and parasites.

Tree House is committed to giving our cats the best start with their new families and this VCA partnership helps make this possible. Furthermore, regular veterinary attention is an important component of a healthy and long-lasting relationship with your cat and, with VCA Hospital's reputation for compassionate and high-quality care, we are confident our adopters and their new cats will be in good hands.

There are currently 16 VCA hospitals (and growing!) serving Chicago and its surrounding area, so our adopters will not have to travel far for this benefit. Please contact our shelter staff Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm if you are interested in learning more about this adoption benefit (773-262-4000).



STRATEGIC PARTNER & SPONSOR

VCA Animal Hospitals provided a Presenting Sponsorship for the 2019 Tree House Lights of Love event because VCA wants to help "Every Cat Thrive."



THIS YEAR, RESOLVE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

by Shannon Gonzalez, Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator

As you plan your resolutions and consider how you'd like to give your time in the new year, we invite you to join the Tree House team as a volunteer and be an active part of helping save animals' lives in 2020.

WHY VOLUNTEER AT TREE HOUSE

At Tree House, we believe in the power of "we" and strive to support one another, celebrate our successes, and fill our environment with fun and happiness as we work towards our mission. When you become a Tree House volunteer, you join a compassionate community focused not only on saving the cats, but on supporting one another as we do so. Marlea Edinger, Tree House volunteer of nearly seven years, shared, "There's a lot of love and compassion here at Tree House, and finding a place like that in the world gives me hope." We're proud to work alongside dedicated volunteers like Marlea and invite you to join us as we grow our life-saving efforts this year.

"I volunteer at Tree House because I want to make a difference in the lives of homeless cats, and the appreciation and support from the staff members I work alongside is so rewarding." **Lisa Zaccone-Pierre**

GETTING STARTED

The first step in becoming a Tree House Volunteer is submitting an application at treehouseanimals.org/volunteer. Our volunteer department will contact you to discuss available opportunities that match your skills, interests, and availability. If our program is a good match for you, you'll be invited to attend one of our upcoming orientation sessions.

"I volunteer at Tree House because nothing gives me greater satisfaction than helping the resident cats feel less stressed and more content, whether that's through play, petting, reassuring words, or silent appreciation. I love getting their immediate feedback that lets me know if I'm on the right track." **Vanda Kvjatkovski**



Volunteer Danielle Gantos with Yucca

OPPORTUNITIES

There are a variety of opportunities available. The Caregiving role offers a hands-on opportunity to provide care for our resident cats, including providing their meals, keeping their living space sanitary, and offering enrichment. Those with customer service skills may enjoy the Adoption Counseling role where you'll have the chance to help connect adopters with the right cat for their home. Others enjoy a more behind-the-scenes position and provide essential support through data entry, administrative assistance, photography, and project assistance. We're committed to finding the right opportunity to help you thrive at Tree House.

For those who aren't able to meet our requested minimum time requirement of nine months, we offer one-time group humane education courses for children and one-time Community Cats training for groups of adults.

MEET TREE HOUSE

ALANA GRELYAK, MANAGER OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Marketing and Community Relations Manager Alana Grelyak is celebrating her one year anniversary with Tree House this January 2020. Prior to working at Tree House full time, she was a volunteer for more than a decade.

Alana's passion for animals started early in life. "I don't remember a time when I didn't have a pet, or really, many pets," Alana said. "When I went to college, I actually switched housing situations just so I could have my pet rat with me because they kicked him out of the dorm after I snuck him in."

Alana's educational background is in music (she holds a Master's Degree in piano performance) but after school, she got more heavily involved in following her other passions of writing and photography. She spent years freelancing as both a music teacher and a writer and editor for various publications. In 2007, she started getting more involved in acting and, by 2010, started writing scripts that she produced with a small production company she was a large part of. They produced horror shorts and then started moving more into comedy. Then, cats happened. "My scripts won Best Writer awards in the 2011 and 2012 48-hour Film Festivals in Chicago. Around this time, I kept wanting to write a script about my cat Rocky because I loved how he matched the bedspread," said Alana. "It sounds ridiculous, but it ended up being really popular and lead to a cat-centric web series on YouTube."

Alana spent the next several years focusing on blogging and producing the web series, which often featured Tree House cats and was, on several occasions, filmed at the old Carmen location. In



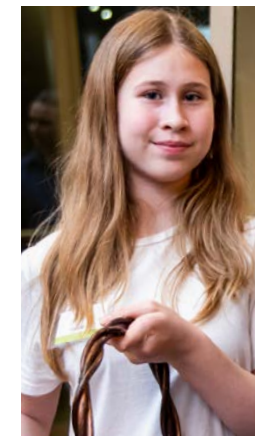
fact, you may have seen her hosting the Chicago stop of the CatVidFest a few years in a row in support of Tree House.

Alana spent a large portion of 2019 revamping Tree House's social media presence. She serves as the editor, primary writer, and art director for the magazine you're reading right now, and she also played a large part in Tree House's rebranding and new logo project. She's looking forward to increasing Tree House's video production output and increasing its social media reach in 2020.

"Tree House has been a big part of my life ever since I returned to Chicago after college and started volunteering there as a photographer," she said. "I feel incredibly lucky that, after so many years of supporting Tree House in my spare time, I now get to do it every day as a career. I truly could not be happier with my job."

Alana has five cats and one dog. Her oldest is 20 years old and her youngest three are all Tree House cats. If she had one marketing wish right now, it would be for everyone reading this to follow Tree House on Instagram @treehousehumanesociety.

MY WEEK AT TREE HOUSE



by Hope Luera

Recently, a local student named Hope Luera reached out to Tree House to see if she could complete her eighth grade externship with us. She's a cat lover and has donated her allowance to Tree House on more than one occasion. After one week with us, we asked her to sum

up her thoughts. Here's what she had to say about her week working in animal welfare:

"When I first got to Tree house, I thought that I would just play with the kittens, but once I got to my desk, it turned out I was doing many other things. I had to do lights testing for the Lights of Love, I had to redeem coupons, I had to wash and put away silverware, I had to go to quite a few meetings, I had to find zip codes, and I had to go lights shopping for Lights of Love. These things kept me busy but were quite fun to do. I also did many cat things, like giving them their

dinner, unloading cats from the van, and naming a cat (Zeus), and cleaning their rooms and colonies. The thing that I enjoyed the most was probably lights testing or naming and helping new cats who arrived from Chicago Animal Care and Control.

There are many amazing people at the shelter trying to do their best to help the cats of Chicago. They help these cats by catching stray cats and neutering or spaying them, being the person who either spays or neuters, getting toys for them, working on how much money they get donated, cleaning the cages, playing with the cats, and marketing things they sell. They have many different programs for cats like Cats At Work, Lights of Love, Instagram, and Halloween parties and community events.

The best part of the week was probably just being here and having fun. The community was great and the cooperation was amazing. Everyone works so hard to get to their goal, and I know that they will achieve all of their goals. I am really excited to see what's next for Tree House and I'm happy that they are doing something for cats in need."



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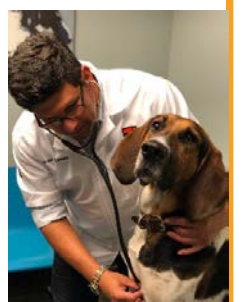
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Heal Veterinary Clinic strives to prevent what is preventable, treat with the utmost skill and care, and show compassion and commitment along the way.

We are proud to be a Presenting Sponsor for the 2019 Tree House Lights of Love event, in our goal of seeing happy, healthy pets.



Compassion



Family

Knowledge

INTRODUCING A CATS AT WORK COLONY

by Sarah Liss, Community Cats Manager

The Tree House Cats at Work (CAW) program is aimed at finding a new home for displaced feral cats who, in return, provide rodent control for the folks who care for them. Feral cats who join CAW come from all over the city and are relocated because they no longer have a safe territory in which to live. Reasons that necessitate relocation include building demolition, severe threats to the cats, and caregivers moving away with no one willing to replace them. We also transfer feral cats from Chicago Animal Care and Control who have been displaced from their territory. We do not recommend relocating cats unless it is the last option for them.

Steps to acclimating a CAW colony:

- 1 Cats arrive at Tree House.** They receive spay/neuter surgery, vaccines, a dewormer/flea/tick treatment, a microchip, and an ear tip to serve as identification that they have been spayed or neutered. In some cases, they may reside with us in a quiet cage for a short time until we find their new home.
- 2 Cats travel to their new home.** They go in groups of 2-4 (with cats they already know) because larger groups of cats tend to be more successful at staying in their new territory. We set them up in elaborate acclimation crates that have everything they need, including multiple comfortable shelters, heating pads (for winter only), a heated water bowl (also for winter only), scratching pads, a tarp to shield them from any elements, and a litter box.
- 3 Bonding time.** During acclimation, it is of utmost importance that their new caregiver establish a bond with the cats. To do this, we suggest making a non-offensive noise or



ringing a bell twice a day during feeding at the same time of day, and spending time with them so that the cats become used to their presence.

- 4 Freedom!** After 21 days, the cats are released. The same feeding rituals will continue in order to always encourage the kitties to stay in this new territory. Caregivers will monitor the cats each day to ensure that there are no signs of illness or injury. Acclimation crates are kept in the same place for approximately three months to maintain order in their new territory. Once the cages are removed, the shelters, heating pads, and heated water bowl will remain to keep the cats comfortable in winter months. It is truly a win-win for everyone involved!

Our CAW caregivers take great pride in the care they provide and they typically form a strong bond with these feral cats. In addition to this bond, caregivers are also provided rodent control by their new furry friends.

If you are interested in learning more about our Cats At Work program, call us at 773-262-4000 or email Paul Nickerson at pnickerson@treehouseanimals.org

ASK THE EXPERT

BRINGING HOME A NEW CAT



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. Dr. Emily lives with her husband, son, three-legged dog, and two silly old cats.

My new cat is showing signs of distress in her new environment. What should I do?

It is natural for cats to be anxious or fearful in a new environment. When you adopt a new cat, they should be slowly acclimated to the home over at least two weeks (although some kitties need longer). Set up your cat in one room. When he is always coming out to greet you when you enter, is eating well, and using the litter box every day, he is ready to see more of your house. If there's another cat in the house, keep your new cat in the room for at least one week. Close all the other rooms and allow your cat to explore the house, but place him back into the original room when you are gone. Eventually, your cat will feel at ease!

Are there any illnesses that I should watch out for in the first few weeks?

Every cat is prone to getting a cold (upper respiratory infection). Symptoms include sneezing, congestion of the nose, runny eyes, decreased appetite, and less activity. Stressed cats, especially those starting a new diet, may have episodes of vomiting or soft stool.

If your cat is still eating full meals and is fairly active, and there is no yellow or green discharge from the nose or eyes, monitor your cat at home. If

at any time your new cat is not eating full meals, is not very active, vomits, has liquid diarrhea, or has yellow discharge, call your veterinarian right away.

I got a new kitten from a shelter. What do I do now for medical care?

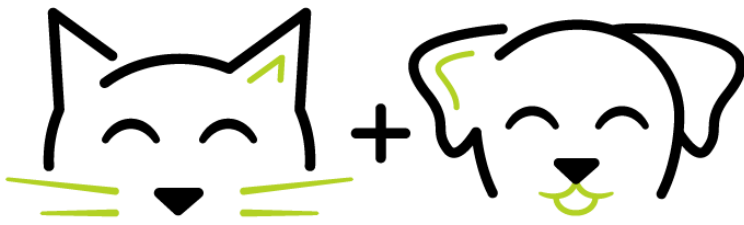
Kittens need extra medical care until 5 months of age to ensure a long, healthy life. Your new kitten will need to visit the veterinarian every two to three weeks for another vaccine booster. In addition, she will require dewormers – all kittens get internal worms from their mother. Each time your kitten visits the veterinarian, they will perform an examination to ensure she is gaining weight as she should and does not have signs of illness. Kittens get sick more often than adults because their immune system is not mature yet, but your veterinarian will be able to get her healthy again in no time.





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