



Contact:
Chris Thoren
Marketing & Community Relations Manager
Tree House Humane Society
P: 773.262.4000 ext. 118
E: press@treehouseanimals.org
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TREE HOUSE HUMANE SOCIETY partners with EMPIRICAL BREWERY to release commemorative beer to celebrate 50th anniversary

Proceeds From “Nine Lives” Beer Support Tree House’s Mission to Ensure Every Cat Thrives

Chicago, IL (August 5, 2021) – [Tree House Humane Society](#) announced today a brewing collaboration with its ‘Cats At Work’ program partner Empirical Brewery. The special release beer, titled ***Nine Lives***, was crafted in celebration of Tree House’s 50th Anniversary and proceeds will help fund the organization’s mission to protect, nurture, and support new solutions so no cat suffers.

Empirical Brewery has a special connection to Tree House Humane Society. Since 2017, the Ravenswood brewery has employed two cats, Venkman and Raymond, as loving members of its team. Both cats are thriving thanks to Tree House’s [Cats at Work](#) program, which connects unsocialized outdoor cats who cannot remain in their home territories with businesses or residences that have safe outdoor space to care for them. Their presence helps deter rodents, and in the decade since its founding Tree House has found homes for over 1,000 cats through the **Cats at Work** program.

***Nine Lives* Commemorative Beer**

“With this special *Nine Lives* beer collaboration, we wanted to raise a glass to our feline team members and celebrate the organization that made it possible for us to welcome two cats into our brewery family,” said Jacob Huston, Empirical’s head brewer and Cats at Work caretaker.

Huston described *Nine Lives* as a crisp and refreshing Pilsner dry hopped with Hallertau Mittelfrueh [hops] for an added aromatic experience. “It’s floral, biscuit-y, and full of flavor,” he added. The special release beer is available in playfully-designed cans starting this week at retail locations around Chicago and will be available on tap at the Empirical Taproom and Tree House’s [Cat Walk](#) fundraiser later this month.

***Nine Lives* Cat Treats Made with Upcycled Ingredient**

Tree House and Empirical have also partnered with [Gateway to Learning](#) to make natural cat treats with the spent grain, which is leftover after the brewing process. **Gateway to Learning** gives adults with intellectual challenges and developmental disabilities meaningful work experiences and culinary arts education to help them become active and contributing members of the workforce. The locally-sourced and produced *Nine Lives* cat treats will be available as a special bonus for ticket holders at Cat Walk!

“Our partners at Gateway to Learning put a lot of care and love into making these cat treats, which are helping to extend the reach and impact of our first-ever beer release,” said Raissa Allaire,

Executive Director with Tree House Humane Society. “These partnerships are great examples of local organizations coming together to support the people and animals in our Chicago community.”

Tree House Humane Society Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary

Tree House was founded in 1971 by a group of volunteers who wanted better things for Chicago’s homeless animals. Celebrating its **50th anniversary** this year, the shelter has been committed to reducing the overpopulation of stray animals by helping over 35,000 cats find their forever homes and through its innovative **community cats** program, which gives outdoor, unsocialized cats a dedicated, long-term home in a managed community colony that provides a healthy, nurturing outdoor environment.

On Saturday, August 21, Tree House will be hosting a **50th Anniversary Cat Walk**, a bar crawl that will raise funds for the organization’s mission and give supporters a chance to taste the delicious special release beer, *Nine Lives*. The Malt Row bar crawl supports Tree House Humane Society’s mission and features games and drink specials from partners **Empirical Brewery, Smylie Brothers Brewing Company, K’s Dugout, and Urban Brew Labs**. Tickets start at \$50 and are available online at <http://treehouseanimals.org>.

About Tree House Humane Society

Since its founding in 1971, Tree House Humane Society has created innovative and progressive approaches to animal welfare that not only enhance the lives of companion animals in the community but also bring a greater awareness of animal welfare issues to the general public. Tree House’s vision is to see every cat thrive.

For more information about Tree House Humane Society, visit TreeHouseAnimals.org.

About Empirical Brewery

Empirical Brewery is a family and pet-friendly establishment with an impressive array of award-winning beers. In addition to their primary mission, "Exploring the science of beer!", Empirical is known for inclusive events, exciting collaborations, year-round beer releases, and a commitment to charitable community support. The Brewery has been a staple of the Malt Row/Ravenswood brewing community for over 6 years. For media inquiries, contact: Eric Oren at 541-510-8918 / Eric@EmpiricalBrewery.com.

Visit empiricalbrewery.com for more information!

About Gateway to Learning

Gateway to Learning serves adults with intellectual challenges and developmental disabilities in Chicago, IL. Through the active involvement of dedicated Life Skills Instructors and Coaches, participants receive the education and training designed specifically for them. The hallmark of Gateway to Learning is the provision of individualized programs which meet the unique needs of each participant. These specialized programs provide adults with a place to develop and use their skills to enrich their lives and contribute to the surrounding community. Today, Gateway to Learning serves over 85 adults with diverse abilities representing every race and ethnic origin.

Visit <https://www.gtlchicago.com/> for more information.