

**Fried's Cat Shelter
PO Box 241
Michigan City, IN 46361-0241**

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**Return Service Requested
Newsletter #134**



**Mishka raised her kids and is now
ready to find her furever home.**

YES! I WANT TO HELP KEEP THE LEGACY GOING!

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$_____ to support the
cats and kittens of Fried's Cat Shelter**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

Name: _____ House # & Zipcode _____

Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express (please circle one) # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVS Code: _____ \$ _____

Please put my donation towards (Please check one):

Unrestricted Donation _____

Building Fund Donation _____



December 2024
Newsletter #134

Dear Esteemed Supporters,

As we approach the close of this year, we face the pressing reality that the goal of rendering shelters unnecessary remains elusive. Although the prospect may seem distant, we assure you that we continue to hold on to hope and remain steadfast in our mission. Our shelter is currently operating at full capacity, necessitating ongoing relocation of cats to provide newly admitted felines with an opportunity to acclimate.

We receive approximately 95 percent of our inquiries from individuals seeking to relinquish their cats. Regrettably, we must repeatedly decline such requests due to our limited resources. We recently saw an overabundance of cats being dumped at our facility. We have now placed cameras and can at least bring them in from inclement weather. While we are relieved that abandoned cats are not left in rural areas, this situation greatly strains our ability to feed, house, provide veterinary care, and medicate these animals to ensure their well-being. Shelter capacity is a concern and challenge for most shelters, including ours.

As Christmas approaches, we are grateful for the support, and we ask that the building fund is continually blessed so that we can begin in 2025. We are close, but every dime counts and is needed to be successful in Hans Fried's dream, when in his own words, he said: "To save a life is more in conformity with God's law than to kill!" That and the love and healing these furry creatures bring is why we will push through with hope and faith that we will not be needed one day.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your generosity has made a significant difference in the lives of the cats we care for. Thank you for standing with us in our mission to make shelters unnecessary.

Warm Regards,

Ruth Antisdell

Director
Fried's Cat Shelter



Wish List

Canned & dry cat food, scoopable litter, trash bags (13 and 33 gallons), paper towels, paper plates (6" and 9"), Lavender Fabuloso, Clorox disinfecting wipes, first class postage stamps, computer paper (8 1/2 x 11), laundry detergent (HE perfume & dye free), bleach (household cleaning), Advantage II, Nutrical, large puppy pee pads, and furnace filters (16x25x1 and 16x20x1).

Fried's Cat Shelter

From the Desk of Charlie, Jr.

Dear Human Friends,

Since our last newsletter, two featured cats have found their forever homes. So have two of the ones shown with our crew pictures. I don't think we emphasized enough how much they love us, and though they may be glad when we find our forever homes, they feel sad about losing us. Oh well, that's humans for you; we cats are not as emotional.

You have read about Yoda, our hip dysplasia cat, but not about his sidekick, Trinity. She is a three-year-old gray tiger, born at the shelter and the only survivor of five kittens. However, she ended up with cerebellar hypoplasia and could barely move without falling over. Even after she was transferred to the blind cat room with Yoda, it took her a long time to overcome her fear. But, once she came out of her shell, boy did she move! It took a few weeks until her legs got strong enough to carry her body and let her stand, walk, sit, and keep herself clean. Now, she moves up and down the hallway almost as fast as Yoda. But I really was shocked when she climbed halfway up the cat tree. I am glad her caretaker put cat beds around the bottom in case she falls.

Now, a story I just heard from one of our volunteers. It shows how two cats, a male (M) stray and a female (F) inside/outside cat, who are not even buddies, work together to communicate their wishes to a human (H). M first showed up during the mating season and was promptly rebuffed. Mating season was over, and he kept on coming back. Finally, H put out food and a carrier for him, and he made his headquarters at her house. F is kept inside after dinner. After they started to meow at each other at bedtime, H chased him until she noticed that F did not want to go out and understood that M was not asking for a date but for food. She put out the food, he ate and then went into his carrier. F stayed inside, and once she saw him eat, she went to her own bowls. The next morning, they said: "Let's see if the human got the message," and as soon as H got up, they started meowing again. H understood and put out breakfast. That shows what we cats can do.

The holidays are just around the corner. If you can, come and visit us. My brothers and sisters are looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Charlie, Jr.



**Frisky and Nigel
would like you to**

COME FOR A VISIT

Fried's Cat Shelter
509 S. Indiana Hwy 212
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 874-6932
FAX (219) 874-7566
E-mail: contact@friedscatshelter.org
Website: www.friedscatshelter.org

Our Business hours are:

Mon - Thurs Closed
Friday 2 PM - 6 PM
Sat - Sun Noon - 4 pm

Driving Directions:

Coming from Illinois...take I-94 East to Indiana exit 40B (Hwy 20/35 for Michigan City). Take that road till you come to the exit for Hwy 212 North (about 1/2 mile). When on 212 get into the left hand lane. We are on the left side of the road at the end of the curve in the highway.

Coming from Michigan...take I-94 West to exit 40B and follow the above directions.

Coming from South Bend...Take the 80/90 Toll Road West to La Porte Exit 49. When you come off the exit head North (a right turn) on Hwy 39. Go to the traffic light (Hwy 20) and turn left. Take Hwy 20 to the exit for Hwy 212 North (about 5-6 miles). When on 212 get into the left hand lane. We are on the left side of the road at the end of the curve in the highway.

Please mail all correspondence to:

Fried's Cat Shelter
PO Box 241
Michigan City, IN 46361-0241





From the Desk of Brittany

Hello everyone!

As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves over capacity yet again. Daily, we receive multiple calls and voicemails from individuals who find themselves, or a family member, unable to care for their cats and want to surrender them to a shelter. While we wish to provide shelter and care for every feline that needs it, we do not have the space or funds to do so.

We have also had an uptick of cats being dumped on the premises. To name a few, we have had a kitten tossed onto the lawn, zipped up inside of an insulated lunch bag; multiple cats left in a small dog kennel; a litter of kittens in a milk crate; and most recently, a very sweet cat we have named Maya, who was left in a carrier by our door. At the same time, an obviously distressed child cried for her in the background. Luckily, we have cameras that catch this happening, so someone is able to get to the shelter quickly to get the cats safely indoors. We also get good views of the people doing this, so it can be turned over to the proper authorities.

This situation places an unbelievable amount of stress on us, as we are already full. We then have to make room somehow for the extra mouths to feed. It also places a lot of stress on these innocent cats, whose lives were just turned upside down. I want to stress this to the public: pets are a lifetime commitment. That cute little kitten will grow up. As they age, just like in humans, health problems can and do develop. You need to be prepared to care for them accordingly.

We understand that things happen, and every situation is different. We do what we can to help, but many surrenders are cats that have become unwanted due to health issues or the fact that they are no longer

that cute, playful little kitten. We encourage those considering surrendering their cats to explore all options before doing so. Contact friends or family who might be willing to take the cat in. Additionally, numerous resources are available for pet owners facing financial, behavioral, or health-related challenges.

We rely heavily on the generosity of the community to continue our mission. Donations, whether monetary or in-kind, go a long way in helping us provide food, medical care, and enrichment for all cats in our care. Ultimately, our goal is to find loving, permanent homes for all of the cats that we care for. We believe every cat deserves a chance at a happy, healthy life, and with your support, we strive to make that a reality. Thank you for understanding and supporting our efforts to protect and care for these wonderful animals.



Memorials & Honors

Your donation in memory or in honor of loved ones or pets will go a long way to help Fried's Cat Shelter's cats and kittens. When sending memorials or honors please include your wording along with your name and address

**ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY!**



In Memory Of



In memory of Ronald Doran.

--Virginia & Greg Orłowski

In memory of my husband, Bob Shadbar, and our dearly loved kitties, who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge; Tiger, Chessie, Spike, Tigger and Oreo. Forever in my heart.

--Karen Shadbar

In memory of Janette Dancho.

--Margaret Sabo

In memory of my mom, Jovita Mediola, and all my cats that loved her.

--Adele Mendiola

In memory of my late aunt, Marilyn Asteriadis. She was committed to support those organizations she believed in.

--Thomas Bourgeois

In memory of our two kitties - "Casper" and "Walter", renamed "Kitty".

--Mike & Marty Riley

In memory of my late husband, William (Bill) Wolf.

--Maria Wolf

In loving memory of my sweet boy, Brendan O'Shaughnessy, and my smart girl, Brigid Colleen. I will meet you at the Rainbow Bridge some day.

--Helen Hopp

In memory of Annie.

--Sue Lindborg

In memory of a great dog, Dexter. He loved all his kitty friends he lived with.

--Ronald & Susan Kittleson

In memory of Annamar Gresham.

--Ryan and Valerie Vedron

In loving memory of Jay Pouzar who adored our two cats, Charlie and Kit.

--Donna Pouzar

In loving memory of Jay Pouzar.

--James & Sherryl Wilke

In memory of Jay Pouzar.

--Christopher & Resa Larson

In memory of Lucia Tower.

--Jacoba Johnson



In Honor Of



In honor of Bonnie Banks.

--Grover Medley

In honor of Fried's Employees.

--Kim Cash

In honor of Dona Rager, cat lover extraordinaire.

--Steven & Rexanne Warner.

In honor of Tamara Eaton's Birthday!

--Your Staff



Facts About Cats Who Made History

1. A green cat was born in Denmark in 1995. Some people believe that high levels of copper in the water pipes nearby may have given his fur a verdigris effect.
2. It turns out that Abraham Lincoln was a crazy cat president! He had four cats that lived in the White House with him.
3. Maria Assunta left her cat, Tomasso, her entire \$13 million fortune when she died in 2011.
4. President Bill Clinton's cat, Socks, was a media darling during the Clinton administration and was said to receive more letters than the President himself.
5. Stubbs, a 17-year-old orange tabby, is mayor of the historic district of Talkeetna, Alaska.

see Cat Facts on Page 5

(Cat Facts continued from page 4)

Some 700 million feral cats live in the United States, and many shelters run trap-neuter-release programs to stem the population growth.

Studies suggest that domesticated cats first appeared around 3600 B.C.

Two hundred feral cats prowl the park at Disneyland, doing their part to control rodents — the ones who don't wear funny outfits and speak in squeaky voices.

ABANDONING ANIMALS AT SHELTERS

When animals are abandoned at shelters after hours, the individuals don't realize the hardships the shelters and animals go through.

Besides scrambling and rearranging to find space at an overcrowded shelter, the poor animals don't even have the familiarity of their own names to help them adjust.

Consider the uncertainty and stress the shelters face when they don't even have any history on the animals. The animals now have to go through quarantine, vet checks, immunizations, and females anesthetized so they can be shaved to find out if they have a spay scar and possible surgery for spaying/neutering. Do these animals get along with other animals, or do they need single-household adoptions? Do they get along with kids? Do they bite? Why did the owners abandon their pets? Was it an issue with the animal, making it unadoptable, or was it for some other reason?

Also, weather plays a part. Are the animals being left outside in the cold, rain, or heat until someone from the shelter finds them the following day?

Please pass the word around that even though someone thinks they are doing a good thing by

leaving their pet at a shelter, even though it is after hours, instead of just abandoning them outside to fend for themselves, here are some suggestions to try first:

1. Consider future endeavors before even getting a pet. They are a life-long (of the pet) commitment.
2. Ask your friends and family if they can take your pet(s) in.
3. Post them on social media to see if someone wants to adopt them.
4. Ask your vet if they would be willing to try to find a home for them with their clientele.
5. Go to nokillnetwork.org for a listing of all no-kill shelters in your area. Choose your state (and any nearby state), then select all the cities you would be willing to travel to.
6. Contact the shelters first, arrange to bring the animals in, and give shelter employees/volunteers the needed information.
7. After exhausting all avenues listed above, and someone has to resort to abandoning them after hours, please keep the shelter and pet in mind by leaving a substantial donation and history with the animal.

CATS/KITTENS AS GIFTS

Cats/kittens can be given as gifts, but not as surprise gifts. You might pick one that seems like the perfect feline companion but said feline might not like the person/family you are presenting it to. On the special gift-giving day, give a card with a coupon from you, sponsoring a feline adoption of your choice, and then let the intended recipient pick out a kitty that is perfect for them. Or, let the recipient pick out their kitty a few days ahead of time so the whole family (kitty included) can enjoy that special day together.

HOMES NEEDED FOR OUR FELINE FRIENDS



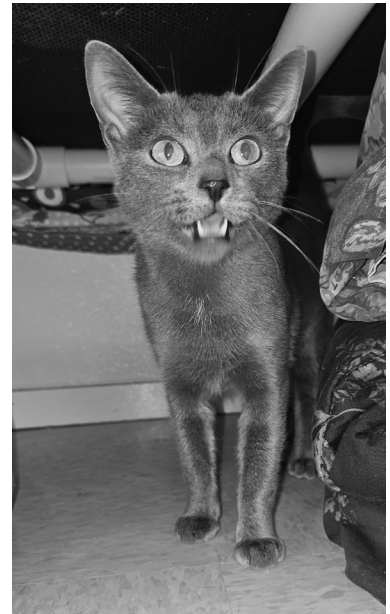
My name is Merlin, and I am a bit on the chunky side, weighing in at 24.8 lbs. Following with the theme of Brittany's letter, my story is a sad one. I was adopted from Fried's when I was a baby in 2017. I lived in the same home and had the same owner for seven years. I was well cared for (maybe too much food) until one sad day, my owner just upped and left, abandoning me in our home. Animal Control had to come to rescue me and then brought me to Fried's. Fried discovered I was one of their furbabies through my microchip.



My name is Maya, I am front declawed, and Brittany mentioned me in her letter (I am the cat in the bottom right picture in her column). I was left in a carrier by the front door during inclement weather. Thankfully, the Ring camera alerted the staff that I was there, and they came to rescue me from the rain. I miss my little female human friend, and I hope to be chosen by a new family to spend the rest of my life with.



Hello everyone, my name is Stevie. My story isn't as sad as Merlin's and Maya's, but my owner had to relinquish me when she had to move and couldn't take me. At least she didn't just dump me or abandon me. She found a great place to bring me to. I am a chocolate point siamese, with gorgeous blue eyes, and I happen to be front declawed.



Psst...yeah, you...let me share a little secret with you! My name is McKinnley, and you might have spotted my daughters on Facebook. I should totally be an internet sensation for having a sextet (that's six, in case you thought I was suddenly into math) of all girls! It's like a reality show titled "Surviving the Girl Squad!"

WOULD YOU BE THEIR FUREVER HOME?



Peaches is my name, and having orange babies is my game! McKinnley thinks handling a house full of girls is a breeze—try wrangling four boys! It's like herding hyperactive kittens who think the living room is their personal WWE ring. Three of them were orange tigers, and let me tell you, I thought I was raising a tiger army, but one was a mini-me, an orange tiger with a splash of white—clearly trying to be a fashion icon in a sea of orange! The boys have gone off to their new adventures. Meanwhile, I'm still at the shelter, checking my calendar and wonder-ing when I'll finally get my furever home. So, if you're looking for a fabulous feline who's seen it all, I'm your gal.



My name is Peony. I can be a bit shy, but I love my pettings and attention. I would do great in a home with older children or just one or two people. Give me the one on one I will love you for life!



My name is Blossom, and I came to Fried's as a friendly pregnant stray. The couple that found me couldn't keep me, but wanted to be sure I was safe, warm and well cared for during and after my pregnancy. Now, I am ready for adoption and would be a purrfectly purrfect fit for any family.



Hey everyone...come to Fried's and be introduced to me, Dolly! I am another one of Fried's recent mothers and my children and I were all named after country singers. My boys were adopted last week, and my daughter will be ready in a couple weeks. I'm playful and loving and looking for my furever family.