

The Scratching Post



F A T Z
 Feline Assistance Team
 Helping Felines
 And Their Friends

Spring 2017

505-293-2830

FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com

www.FatKatzAbq.org

www.Facebook.com/

FatKatzAbq

P.O. Box 90394

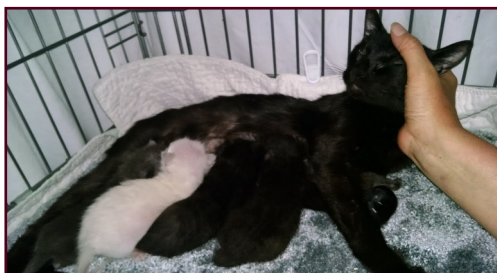
ABQ, NM 87199-0394

**See pg. 2 & 5
 for our
 available cats
 for adoption!**



F.A.T. KATZ is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Why YOU Should Foster A Homeless Pet



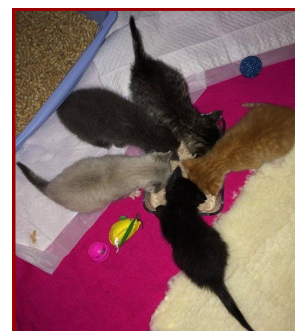
Nakai - severely malnourished, living on the street - we think hit by a car - delivered 5 babies with a broken pubic bone

Thanks to the internet, there is an increasing level of awareness being brought to the plight that homeless pets face every day in our society. Videos, articles, and social media posts flood the internet every second, that illustrate the continuing problems of shelter overcrowding, unethical euthanasia practices, and rampant abandonment of domesticated animals.

While many rescue non-profits, humane societies, sanctuaries, and shelters are making extreme efforts to save animals' lives, there are still many animals that fall through the cracks. Especially with kitten season looming, fostering is a very real way that the community can come together to save pets, and it also has many other benefits! So, if you have room in your home, you should foster a homeless animal because:

1. It Provides An Alternative To Shelter Environments – Even the best animal shelters are still shelters – which in general, are very stressful places for animals to live. Not only are there dozens of pets with varying personalities, backgrounds, ages, breeds, etc. all around each other, feeding into each other's energy; but, they are cooped up in an unfamiliar place (in kennels) and not given the attention or care they require. While many shelters go above and beyond what is expected of a normal shelter's care (which is usually the bare minimum), it doesn't take away from the fact that it's an overwhelming place full of strange smells, sounds, and people. By fostering an animal, you help a pet avoid the shelter and not compromise their emotional and physical health. Even though a foster home is temporary as well, it provides the stability, routine, and attention that even the most progressive shelters fail to provide.

~Cont. on Pg. 4



Petra, Everheart, Zaan, Fiona & Bastian - 5 babies away from their mother too young & rescued from a high-kill shelter.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

- One Year: 12
- Two Years: 67
- Three Years: 376
- Four Years: 2,107
- Five Years: 11,801
- Six Years: 66,088
- Seven Years: 370,092
- Eight Years: 2,072,514
- Nine Years: 11,606,077

Through our low-cost spay/neuter program, we will help you obtain the surgery at a fraction of the regular cost. We have no income requirements, so this program is available to everyone and their cats!

Please call 505-293-2830 or email FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com if interested.

Fundraising always welcome!

Want to raise funds with a lemonade stand, yard sale or car wash? Just collecting spare change? Maybe with your girl scout troop, church, friends, neighbors, etc.? If you are interested in doing an independent fundraiser, please contact us at 505-293-2830 or FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com and we can provide you with all the info you need!

Homes Needed!

The Scratching Post

Pot Of Gold Adoption Event

Join us on the weekend of **Sat. 3/18 & Sun. 3/19** to find your **Irish kitty(s)** by adopting a bonded pair of kitties at half off the adoption fee for both cats. There are several pictured here (the bonded pairs are any of the kitties whose pictures are touching or overlapped.) They are grouped together as different pairs and options. If you are only looking for one set of Irish eyes, wear something green and receive \$10 off your adoption fee.



Nuance



Sophie

Konah



Hamish
Odin
Tanner
Connor



Petra
Fiona



PETRA

Odin

Tanner



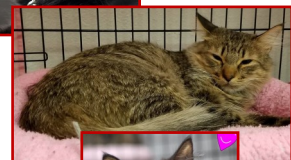
Connor



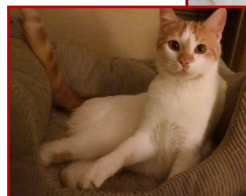
Sinatra & Holly



Paige
Pattie
Piper



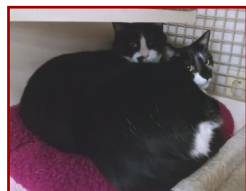
Piper



Topaz
Ayden
Calliope



Topaz



Jerry
Nomey



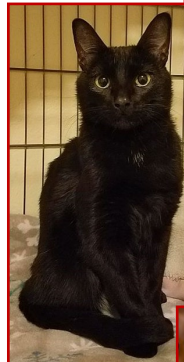
Olive



Luigi
Valentina
Canto



Treble
Suzzette
Bairn
Ian



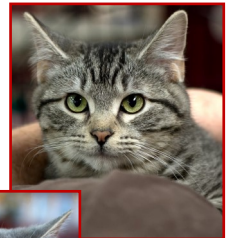
Krillin
Roshi
Anika
Bruce



Ngota



Phoenix
Talia
Callan
Luxor
Nyota
Jua



Dylan
Paddy

All of our cats are spayed/neutered, current on vaccines and are tested negative for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) prior to adoption!

Visit our adoptable kitties at our adoption center at Petco, 6300 San Mateo NE, weekly, Saturdays 11:30-5 & Sundays 11:30am-4pm.

Ask us about our adoption fee specials!

Volunteer Spotlight

This edition is focused on Myra DeBruyn. When asked why she volunteers, she told us this:

When I was 10 years old I found a kitten curled up in an old tire near my house in the country. I brought her home. My dad said to go and find out where she lived. Well, no one claimed her. I couldn't fathom then, and still can't, how anyone, human or animal, doesn't have a place of shelter to be safe, warm and fed. I talked my dad into letting us keep her. And that was that.

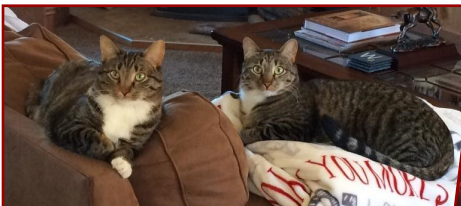
Fast forward many years and many mistakes later that I need to make up for the rest of my life. I started needing help for kittens brought to my doorstep in the country. My friend and I did TNR with the kitties we couldn't tame. We had worn out our welcome with friends whom we had saturated with our tamed kittens.

Jen was starting FAT Katz. We finally had a place for our tamed kittens to find wonderful homes, indoors only, safe from the diseases, traumas, and heartaches that outdoors brings. Rescuing kittens outdoors slowly waned since my back doorstep TNR has been working. But it still happens.

I volunteer because, as much as we try, there are more kitties and animals in need of rescue, love, and being nursed back to health. Sometimes the losses and heartaches are too much. But those times when the right person comes along and falls in love with a kitty that has been through hell makes it all worthwhile. I get a lump in my throat remembering all those moments. That's why I do it. That's why I care. We are all the Creator's creatures.

It took me a long time to see it the way I do now. The dogs on the side of the road that need rescuing. The kitties in colonies, shelters, and on my back doorstep that need rescuing. Once you see it, you can't **not** see it anymore. Even when we are worn out with its endlessness, you still can't blind yourself and not see it anymore.

So that's why I volunteer. That's why I rescue. Seeing the light come back in eyes that are discouraged, sick, and depressed is why I do it. Making a difference one life at a time is why I do it. Knowing I saved a life is why I do it. Even when they don't always make it, I still made a difference. That's why.



Catarina & Boots
(aka Will & Grace)



Keiran
(fka Winter)



Cash



Happy
Tails

Send Us Your Pictures!

We plan to continue our "Happy Tails" section in our newsletter but can't do it without your updated pics! We invite those of you who have adopted a cat from us to submit a photo labeled with the pet's name and date adopted to our e-mail address: FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com



Moxxie
(fka Katniss)



Wyatt



Chester &
Chong



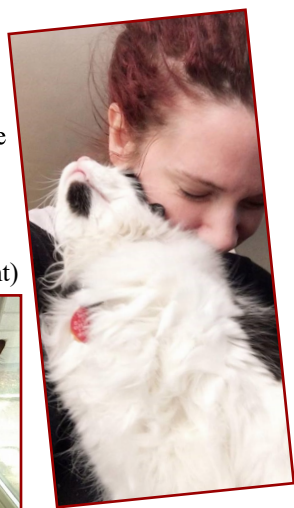
Dash &
Flair



Rikki
(fka Nuri)



Sif (fka Brie on right)



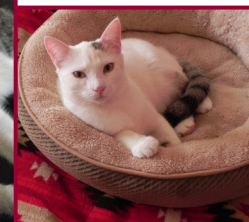
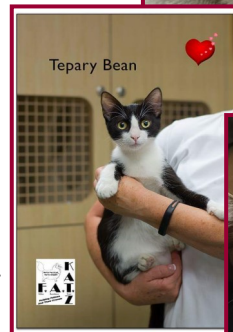
Louie

Why YOU Should Foster A Homeless Pet (cont. from pg. 1)

2. It Gives the Animal a Chance To Improve – In the average animal shelter system, medical or behavioral problems very often mean euthanasia will be inevitable. Sometimes the issue that the animal has is the reason why it was surrendered to the shelter or abandoned. Regardless of whether or not the animal arrived at the shelter with a pre-existing problem attached to it, there is little chance of recovery inside of the shelter due to the lack of consistency, care, and training that is required for progress to be made. In some cases, due to volunteer support and superb shelter staff, animals can receive the care that they need- but more often than not, even a seemingly minor health problem or behavior spell a certain end due to “lack of resources and funding”. However, when these at-risk animals are rescued and put into foster homes, they can be given the training, medical attention, and overall specialized treatment that they need. Thanks to cooperation between the rescue, foster, veterinarian, trainer, and whoever else is involved, this combined effort will enable the animal to be rehabilitated and adopted into a forever home successfully!



The Jumping Bean Babies

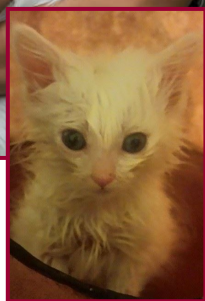
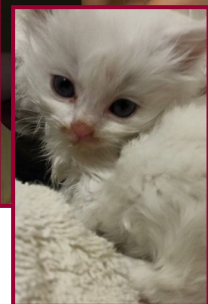


3. It Literally Saves the Animal’s Life – As stated earlier, the shelter system unfortunately isn’t designed to house as many homeless animals as there are currently. In a society where people often abandon or surrender their animals because they’re “too old,” or “too hyper,” or quite commonly because they are moving – the original function that the shelter used to serve has changed dramatically. It seems that the function of these animal “shelters” have shifted from a “shelter” standpoint to a “animal control” agenda – which often means population control. The widely accepted rationale is that there are so many homeless animals, that only the cream of the crop deserve to be adopted, while the senior, special needs, and other “less desirable” pets should just be euthanized. It is a harsh reality that results in millions of animals being “put to sleep” every year. However, if you foster an animal (even just for a short while), you are taking the possibility of euthanasia out of the equation (unless it is suffering and has an extremely poor quality of life).

4. It Provides Terminally Ill Animals With a Peaceful End – Although it is sad, being a “forever foster” for a terminally ill animal is a great way to provide a loving soul with a joyful end to their life. Hospice cases are usually the first animals to be euthanized at the shelter, whether they have a serious heart murmur, cancerous tumors, or any such incurable disease. The only thing sadder than an animal passing away from a terminal illness is that animal being “put down” at a shelter – a cold, unfamiliar, and confusing place – by staff who may or may not give the animal a loving send-off. If you foster a terminally ill animal, you are giving it the loving end of its life it deserves, filled with warmth, kindness, and probably lots of spoiling!



5. Fostering Enriches YOUR Life As Well – It is becoming more and more apparent due to scientific studies, personal accounts, and widely shared experiences that animals literally improve your quality of life. Not only are they linked to reducing stress – which has an overall positive effect on the body due to less strain – but they improve anxiety and depression symptoms as well. Many people have reported that their dog, cat, rabbit, or other pet saved them from committing suicide. The companionship itself is healing for anxiety and depression sufferers, as well as the acts of petting, cuddling, and caring for the animal which provide endless emotional benefits. Also, it just makes life more fun in general due to the addition of another cute, spunky personality to your household. You can also have the comfort of knowing that you are doing your part in saving animals’ lives from the shelter system!



Basically fostering saves lives – the lives of homeless animals that otherwise would be at-risk for euthanasia, or for developing an illness or behavior problem in the shelter system. There is a high demand for certain types of dogs to be fostered – the “less desirable” dogs – but these dogs have just as much love (sometimes more) to give as the puppies and “high demand” dogs that are trendy and sought after. If you have household to foster an animal (or several), reach out to a local rescue non-profit, humane society, sanctuary, or even shelter that has a foster program. You can also check online via Facebook on the many different networking groups that post animals that are in immediate need of rescue to save their lives. If we all do our part and foster, we can prove that there are enough homes for all shelter animals and euthanasia is not the solution!

DIY Cat Puzzle Tutorial

Since cats are much safer indoors and most of us keep them inside, it's important to enrich your cats lives by stimulating them. With this in mind, here is an easy and inexpensive way to do so.

Supplies List:

- ◆ One (or more) disposable food containers about 9½ cups capacity
- ◆ Utility knife
- ◆ VERY sharp scissors
- ◆ Black marker
- ◆ Rubbing alcohol
- ◆ Lighter
- ◆ Small rubber adhesive casters
- ◆ Small cat toys/balls (at least one with a bell - for stimulating sounds)
- ◆ Cat kibble or treats



1. Flip the container upside down, and secure some rubber adhesive casters - to help stabilize the puzzle on wood or tile floors.
2. Use shot-glasses to draw shapes onto the lid with a black marker.
3. Put the lid onto a cutting board, and score X shapes inside the circles with an x-acto or utility knife. Use these openings to insert the scissors and cut out the circles.
4. After cutting all the openings, remove the leftover black marker with rubbing alcohol.
5. Burn the edges of the openings, to smooth them out (paws and jagged edges don't go together!)
6. Gather some toys/kibble/treats and put them into the container. **You don't need to buy toys for this project.** The point is to make it affordable! You can use toys you already own, or make your own - with found objects. You can use the plastic safety ring from a milk jug, you can crumple-up some paper and make paper balls, or you can even use buttons or items that your cat naturally plays with. Add a bell in the box for extra auditory stimulation.
7. Adding a corner opening makes the puzzle a little simpler. 3 circles alone, may be too challenging for beginners. You want them to be challenged, but not frustrated because they can't 'catch' any prey. If they get frustrated, they may abandon the box.
8. Put the lid on the container, and watch the cats gather round to inspect it.
9. Make a second puzzle box, to ensure that one cat is not hogging it, leaving the other(s) to watch from a distance. You can use regular kibble instead of treats in the box so you can use more than a few pieces and they can play longer (treats are very caloric.)

This is an easy project for anyone, and a very interactive toy that will help to keep the cats entertained while you're gone. It can also be a very effective tool for feeding fast eaters, or for overweight kittycats. It's just so versatile and so easy to make. We can't think of a reason why ANYONE should not make one...or many!



Rey, Ren & Leia Sisters who will qualify as bonded pairs during the Pot Of Gold Adoption Event



Pot Of Gold Adoption Event



Join us at **Petco**
6300 San Mateo NE
Sat. March 18, 11:30am-5pm
Sun. March 19, 11:30am-4pm

and adopt your Favorite Leprechaun during this event!



~We have lots of cats and kittens to choose from and our adoption specialists will help you find the right kitty for your home!

~Wear something green and receive \$10.00 off your adoption fee!

~Adopt a bonded pair and receive half off the adoption fee for both kitties!



**Adoption events are held every weekend at Petco
6300 San Mateo NE
Saturdays 11am-5pm &
Sundays 11am-4pm**

Caesar aka Squeezer here!
Last year my humans made me a catio and at first I was a little nervous cuz I haven't been outdoors before so I didn't understand. Now, I couldn't be happier!! All kitties should have one!!



WISH LIST

- Cat litter - clumping and non-clumping
- Toys, catnip
- Cat beds
- Foaming, non-alcohol hand sanitizer
- Copy paper, printable address labels
- Stamps - postcard and first-class
- Volunteers for adoption or special events
- Sponsor a newsletter
- Commercial printing services

- Canned & dry foods
- Scratching posts, trees & cardboard scratchers
- Towels
- Small garbage bags
- Printable postcards (4 to a pg), printer ink
- Foster homes
- Gift cards - Revival Animal, Petco, PetSmart, WalMart or Idexx
- Sponsor a newspaper advertisement

We are an all volunteer organization so your donations go directly to the cats in our care!
Please consider becoming a member or a sponsor today!
See the membership form below!

A huge thanks to all of our volunteers, fosters, donors, members and sponsors! If you are interested in donating, volunteering or becoming a member, please complete the form below, call 505-293-2830 or email FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com

If you are interested in an email version of the newsletter, please email us at FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com

**F.A.T. KATZ – P.O. Box 90394 – Albuquerque, NM 87199-0394
505-293-2830 or FatKatzAbq@gmail.com www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq www.FatKatzAbq.org**

Yes, I would like to become a member of F.A.T. KATZ in the following category (checks or money orders made payable to FAT KATZ):

- Guardian Angel (\$1000 or more)
- Star (\$500)
- Hero (\$250)
- Friend (\$100)
- Sponsor or Family (\$50)
- Individual (\$30)
- Active Volunteers (\$10)
- Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10)

Sponsor-A-Cat, Name of cat and amount _____
See Facebook or web page for pictures and the list of adoptable cats

Microchip program sponsor amount _____

F.A.T. KATZ also has a PayPal account! You can donate through PayPal with your credit card using our email address listed above!
You can also donate straight from your paycheck using United Way. Please visit their website <http://www.uwcnm.org/> to find out how!

Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering - you must provide email address or phone # for this!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ DATE: _____

F.A.T. KATZ is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.