



# Spay and Save Volunteer Newsletter



## ADOPTIONS

Nov/Dec

Cats 51

Dogs 2

## Introducing A Cat or Kitten to A New Home

By Janet Lynch

In handling the adoption of three adult male cats to three different families, I was compelled to find out best practices for introducing them to their new homes.

One cat was returned in less than 24 hours because the adopter thought there was something wrong with him. The cat was not properly introduced to his new home and hid in the laundry room. There was no convincing the adopter that the cat just needed time, patience, and a safe environment to acclimate in his time.  
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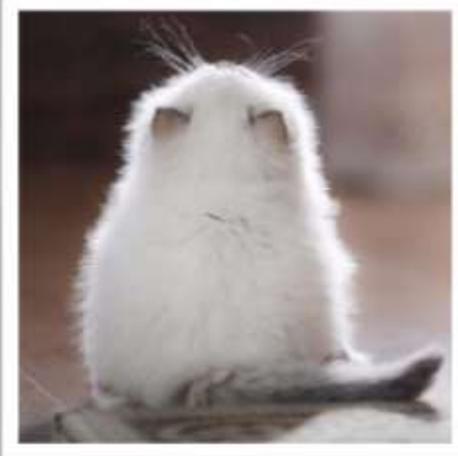
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## Notes from Our Adopters

From Lizett Robinson

"Thank you for rescuing us and helping us to find our forever home. My name is Fluffers but when you found me you named me Triples because I was fluffy and purring so much. I still purr a lot and I'm still very fluffy. I'm also extremely handsome, popular, and very likable. My brother was named Badger but, he is now Captain Kittenface of Her Majesty's Space Marines. He is very proper - he always sits very straight and has good posture and he can even stand on his two back paws for long periods of time. I just flop everywhere. My sister is Luna. Her full name is The Lovely Lady Luna Princess of Chester Springs and Themyscira." Continued page 2



## Introducing A Cat or Kitten to A New Home Continued

The second cat was adopted by a family with two young children with the mother having experience with older cats and an understanding of their needs. Within a few days the cat had settled in very nicely as shown in photos provided of him under their Christmas tree and calmly sitting on dad's lap next to their youngsters. This adoption was a very smooth transition because of the parents' patience and understanding.

For the third cat a family applied to adopt after seeing him at the December adoption day at a PetValu. The following day this cat returned to his foster home and was then picked up a few days later by a family member and taken to his new home. Within a few days the parents were concerned that he was in the basement and not coming upstairs. Although this cat is extremely sweet and friendly, he needed time to adjust to his new family of four and a dog.

For the family of the third cat I sent them an email with suggestions on introducing a cat to a new home that included some insight into his background. Below is the list of suggestions taken from several website articles on the topic of introducing an adult cat:

Key words here are Patience and Time.

- ♥ The cat is stressed and needs time and space to adjust to his new environment and family.
- ♥ It may take weeks or months for him to feel totally comfortable.
- ♥ Cats are particularly sensitive to new surroundings and some may hide under a bed or in a closet for days or even weeks. Newly adopted cats often hide and shun their new people.
- ♥ Don't be too quick to introduce your dog or other pets to your new cat. Give him time to adjust to your human family first.
- ♥ Allow him to stay in a small room, basement or wherever he currently feels comfortable. Give him lots of time to adjust to his new environment with its new and strange smells. Do not force him to come out of his comfort zone.
- ♥ Put his bedding in a cardboard box enclosed on 3 sides. This will provide security for him.
- ♥ Hand feed the cat when visiting him. This is a great bonding exercise, and he will learn to trust and associate you with security.
- ♥ Sit on the floor and let him come to you. Don't force him. Let him get acquainted in his own time. If he doesn't approach, leave him alone and try again later.
- ♥ Clean his litter box regularly throughout the day. Provide two litter boxes large enough for him to comfortably move around with plenty of litter.
- ♥ Go over the ground rules with all family members. Remind them not to startle him and keep the door to his safe zone shut. Restrict exposure to holiday guests.

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## Notes from Our Adopters Continued

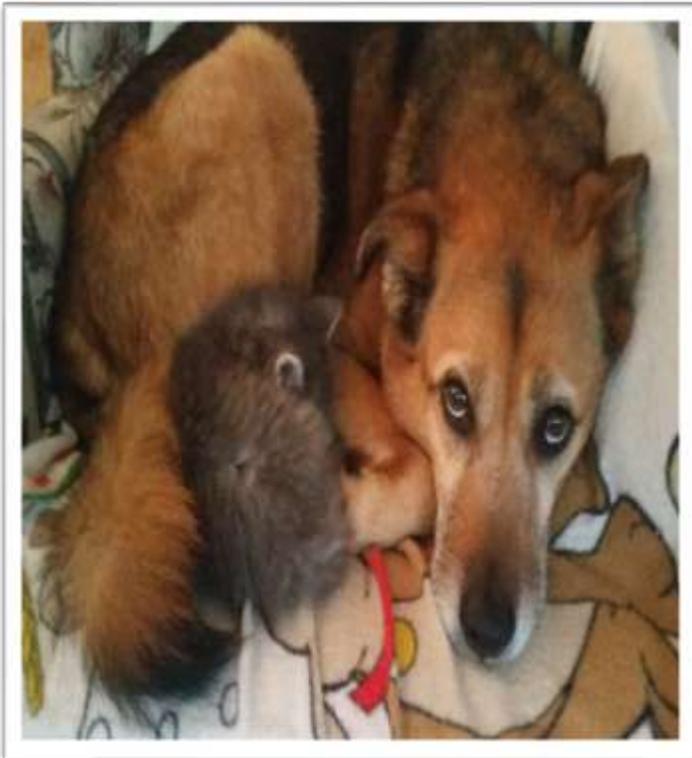
We like to play a lot. Sometimes there's a little red light at night in our house and we all chase it around. Our sister Luna, another Spay and Save rescue, is very very fast and she can jump very high. She thinks she's the boss of us and well she actually is the boss of us. Don't tell her we said that - we don't like to admit it. She's very good when it comes to chasing the red light. But, she lets us have turns too. We have a foster brother Toby. The first time he saw the red light he jumped straight up in the air and everyone laughed. But now, he runs after it. Well, it's more like loping the way he moves and he only will chase it in the hallway because he's a bit of a scaredy-cat and doesn't like to get too close to Meowmy.

We have a very good life. We get to explore and there are lots of toys for us to play with and when Meowmy walks away we go into her knitting bag and pull out all of her yarn, unraveling it through the house. She doesn't seem to get mad because she will leave yarn out for us to play with but, we like to go into her bag and play with the yarn we see in her hands.

I am getting sleepy so it's time for me to find the most comfortable spot in the house, preferably near one of my humans and take a nap. Thank you Spay and Save! Without you I would not have my forever home or my brother Captain Kittenface, my sister Luna, and even old Toby."

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# Happenings at Spay and Save



*Left: We were calling him Lil Terror because he is feisty. He has plenty of chew toys but prefers the taste of skin. Despite this he will get plenty of hugs! Enjoy your holidays. Joan Carr, foster mom.*



*Above: Bert aka Butters was adopted by the Balaschak family from Roxborough Pet Value at Christmas.*

*Right: A note to Kathy Obrien. "Thanks for reaching out and checking in on "Saucy." My kids wanted to keep her name and we are absolutely in love with her. She loved the Christmas tree of course and my son didn't want me to take it down, so she could lay in the top of it. So, I built a cat house for her, so she could remain in a high area which she loves." Saucy was adopted from Roxborough Pet Value by the Stipling Family*



*Below: Gift Wrapping at **Barnes and Noble**. Gift wrapping in December at Barnes and Noble use to be a regular Holiday staple for donations for Spay and Save. With the advent of Amazon taking over the Book Sellers niche we have not been doing it for some years. If you are doing your shopping through Amazon these days use **Amazon Smile** and make Spay and Save your beneficiary for the rest of the year*



*Above: Donations from the Spay ad Save Holiday Party held at Toni Dougherty's house on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Below: Ava, one of my cats, checking out the outdoor shelter made and donated by Bob Wood.*



## Introducing A Cat or Kitten to A New Home Continued

Background:

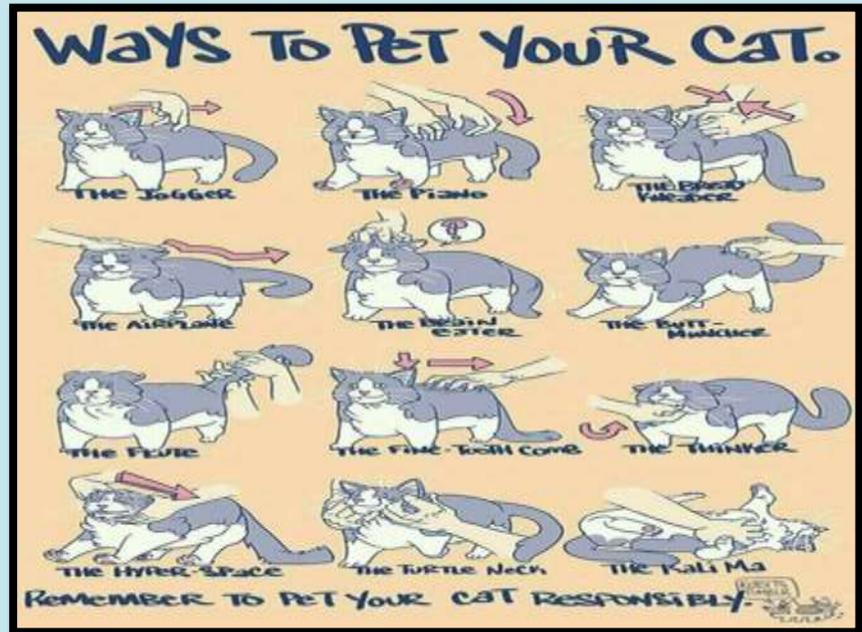
- ♥ Rescued cats have been traumatized and require patience and time to adjust.
- ♥ He was rescued from the streets where he was likely abandoned.
- ♥ He had to adjust to two Foster Homes.
- ♥ Within the past few weeks he went to his second foster home, then to PetValu for 2 weeks, then back to his foster home, then to your home with new smells, new surroundings, new humans, and a dog.
- ♥ If you provide the time, patience and implement the suggestions above over the next weeks and possibly months, your reward will be love, affection, and gratitude from the cat.

This family was willing to provide the time and patience for their new feline in addition to following some of the suggestions above.

The foster mom and I both received messages about a week later stating the cat is now coming out of his safe zone, interacting with the family, and could care less about the dog.

Two out three adoptions are successes, and that is a good reason to celebrate this holiday season.

## Some Fun Infographics about Cats



## Notes from Our Adopters

### Lunas Lament

By Elijah Robinson

"I am Luna and I am the eldest of 3 cats which I rule over. If I had to describe my human servant, he is extremely annoying---always kidnapping me and putting me on his lap to pet me. But the foolish human can never contain me! My adorably good looks and cunning always get allow me to escape from his clutches. If he has treats or food, I may stay for a little while...

I will decide when to leave. After all, a kingdom is not a kingdom without a queen. My throne is the highest object I can reach within sight but for some reason the servant always denies me my throne telling me to get down. The sheer audacity!!!!!!"

## Fosters Can Claim Tax Deductions

In a landmark tax court case, Jan Van Dusen emerged victorious against the IRS. Van Dusen claimed many tax deductions on her 2004 tax return, for all the expenditures she'd put out for the 70 (yes, you read that correctly) stray and feral cats she had fostered, as part of her volunteer work with Fix Our Ferals, a non-profit California charity. Van Dusen claimed over \$12,000 related to cat food, vet bills, garbage bags, and other items for her care of the cats. In 2009, a judge finally ruled that because her expenses were used toward a charitable organization, she was legally allowed to claim them. In fact, 90 percent of her vet bills, cleaning supplies, and food was tax deductible.

**How to get the most money back.** Some tips for foster parents planning to claim deductions on their taxes.:

- ♥ Collect and retain all your receipts associated with foster pet purchases
- ♥ Write a note on every receipt and be specific (i.e. if you go to a hardware store and buy cat litter or lights for the room the dogs are kept in, circle the items on the receipt and write a note about the purpose of the item)
- ♥ Remember that as of right now, the only tax-deductible purchases are for foster pets, not resident pets

## Volunteer Corner

### Spay and Save Donation Holiday Party for 2018



*To the Left:  
Is Bob Wood*

*Below: Maria  
Robb and  
Beth Licata*



By Toni Dougherty

This year was a bit different for it was a potluck and we seemed to have a lot of interesting dishes and sweets that I would never have been able to produce in kind. I always have enjoyed having my fellow Spay and Save volunteers in my home. The enjoyment comes from seeing old friends again and feeling unapologetic about my love and interest in Cats and Dogs. This year's party was well attended, and I am glad I could continue bringing some Holiday Spirit to our hardworking volunteers. We also received generous donations from all those attending. This year the donations will be given to some of our Colony Caretakers whose dedications rarely benefit from our fundraisers.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Thresa Lare
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Paoli PETCO	Kathy Tierney
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu	Janet Lynch
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Exton Petco	Morag Steskal
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Limerick Petco	Madelyn Ferraioli
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Exton Petco	Paula Wenke
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Roxborough Pet Valu	Chris Daniels



By Linda Beck

Dr Brad Bates and Associates are helping families in Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey and the Delaware Valley to choose an option of in-home euthanasia. The decision to euthanize a pet is one of the most difficult choices you will be faced with. Learn more at [LapofLove.com](http://LapofLove.com)

## HOW TO EXERCISE YOUR CAT



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