



Witty Kitties, Inc. Newsletter

A Shelter for Special Needs Cats & Exotic Reptiles * Vol. XII, Issue 3 * Fall 2015



Cinnamon Toast

Snickers

Beau

Cassy

Hank

Jazzy

WITTY KITTIES, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 2000, Witty Kitties provides quality care and shelter to cats with specific chronic medical needs within the five-state area we serve.

Our organization is committed to collaborating with local humane organizations in rescue work and low-cost spay/neuter services.

We provide rescue, care, and appropriate housing for a variety of reptiles, as well. As part of our overall service to the community, Witty Kitties works to educate the public regarding proper care of these companion animals and, ideally, to find permanent, quality homes for them.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenni Doll, DVM, President
Torben Platt, the Reptile Guy
Kathleen Schoon, Volunteer Coordinator
Trish Wasek, Webmaster
John McLaughlin, Infrastructure
Amy Holcomb, Facebook Coordinator
Maggy Tomova, eBay Sales Manager



Chuck (FIV+) is back at Witty Kitties, to our dismay and delight!
Read his story on page 4.

IF YOU GIVE JENNI A BISCUIT

(or... What Happened One Day After Receiving a Large Donation Box of Food and Treats, Blankets and Rags, from the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center.)

by Jenni Doll, DVM

If you give Jenni a box of dog biscuits for her animals, she...

...takes them and all the other goods that were dropped off outside the cat shelter and puts them in her van to take back to her garage.

After parking in the garage, she sees a dirty towel lying by the steps going into the house. She decides to put it in the laundry.

When she is in the laundry room, she sees that both the washer and dryer need to be emptied.

She goes into the pantry to get a laundry basket. While there, she sees a box of rags.

These remind her of the box of rags and other stuff in her van. Back out to the garage, she finds some litter in the donations and takes it downstairs to the cat box room.

She sees how messy it is, so she cleans up the whole room.

Then she remembers there are still other things in the van to unload. Back to the garage, she discovers a heat lamp for the reptiles in one of the donation boxes.

She takes the lamp downstairs to the reptile room.

She thinks about the iguanas who will be using the lamp, and remembers that it will soon be time to move them indoors.

So she decides to put together the oversized haven they will live in, and then she sets it all up for them.

She finds a "hide" meant for smaller animals mixed in with all the iguana stuff. She thinks it would be good in Kirsten's guinea pig pen.

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(Continued from page 1)

She goes to Kirsten's room to give it to the guinea pigs.

While in there, she remembers she promised Kirsten she would put up her posters for her that day.

That done, she notices the guinea pig food bag, and remembers she still has a ton of donated things in the van.

Back in the van, she takes out a big box of dog chews. She distributes them to all the dogs who have been following her in and out and around the house.

She thinks one of the three nifty tins containing some dog food would be nice to put all the dog treats into. She does this, thinks it is pretty nice, so she puts all of Jake's tennis balls in one, and some bird seed in another.

When bringing the bird seed outside to fill the feeders, she has to walk through the living room. While doing that she sees how messy the dogs have made the carpet.

She vacuums the living room...then the bedroom.

While in the bedroom, she notices the still unused TV on the dresser, and thinks it is too bad it has sat unused for a year because the cable box is on the opposite side of the room. She moves the king-sized bed and dressers to accommodate the TV.

While doing this, Jake (her crazy dog) keeps trying to get on the bed.

Then she remembers all the stuff that is still in the van.

While walking to the van in the garage, she goes through the laundry room and decides to change the laundry, and realizes how hot it has gotten in the room with the sun beating in through the glass door.

So she figures out how to hang a sheet on the door so that it won't ruin the paint.

Next to the door is Jake's tennis ball tin, which reminds her she hasn't thrown the ball for Jake yet that day.

She goes outside to throw it, and sees Ben the Bear, whom she hasn't fed yet. She goes to the van and gets some of the donated food.

While feeding Ben, Sully the tortoise comes out of hiding and demands feeding.

After feeding him, she feeds all the other reptiles. Their vegetables make her think about what she should make for dinner.

She decides to take a bunch of stuff out of the freezer, and then decides to lie down on the bed and text her sister.

"Why can't I just think like a man, in discrete boxes, and be able to just do one thing at a time and ignore everything else around me?"

Before she gets a response back, she sees the TV and realizes she needs to find a remote for it...

...so she gets back up...

Fall Fur Fest Memories

Thanks to everyone who came to our 15th anniversary fundraiser in September! Perfect weather, awesome music by Blue Dog, and the chance to hold a snake, pet the kitties, and feed a bear made for a memorable event. Your generous donations will help us continue our mission of sheltering and caring for a variety of critters over the upcoming year. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**



Chuck's Story

From the day he arrived at Witty Kitties, Chuck made his case for being the most adorable and adoptable kitty in the shelter.

He's never met a human whose lap he didn't adore. And jump right into.

Ear scratches? Mmmmmmm.
Tummy rubs? Purrrrrrrrrrfect.

But... one by one, the other cats in Chuck's room were chosen instead of him. We couldn't understand it.

Then the miracle finally happened. After waiting for four years, Chuck was adopted, along with Scorsese, and life was good!

But life is also unpredictable. After a little more than a year, Chuck's person decided to return to grad school. Finances meant she had to live in student housing. No cats allowed. Her mom and dad were unwilling to foster.

So this sweet and loving boy is now back at Witty Kitties. We

put Chuck and Scorsese in the same room, but shortly thereafter Kirsten adopted Scorsese. Chuck's best buddy was gone. A couple of the other cats in that room started picking on him.

Then we moved Chuck into the room he used to live in. He and AJ had some spats, and we were all so sad for Chuck. Why is everyone picking on this sweet boy??

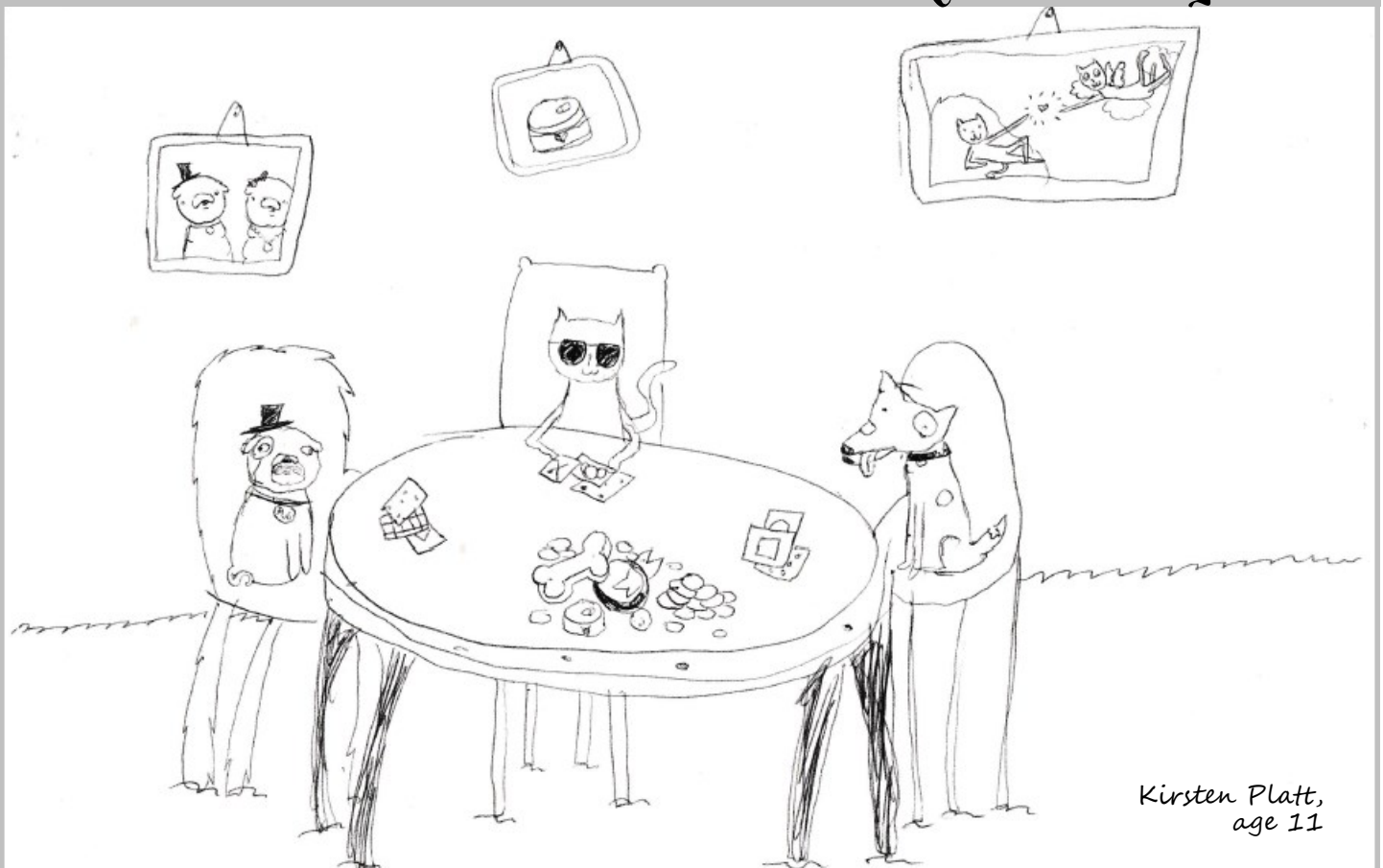
A couple weeks later, a friend and supporter fell in love with him as he rolled on his back for tummy rubs. She wanted to take him home! Life was good again!

But life is not always fair, either. She was moving to the west coast in less than a week. Chuck would have to stay with friends, take a long flight in a carrier, and then adjust to a new home, mom, and kitty sibling. We all (sadly) agreed that the process might be too much stress so soon after all the other changes in his life. Stress is not a good thing for an FIV+ kitty.

So Chuck is still waiting. He and AJ have made their peace. Life goes on, and we're sure his big day will come again. Meanwhile, we are all soaking up his love each and every day!



Kirsten's Corner: "Poker Party"



Kirsten Platt,
age 11

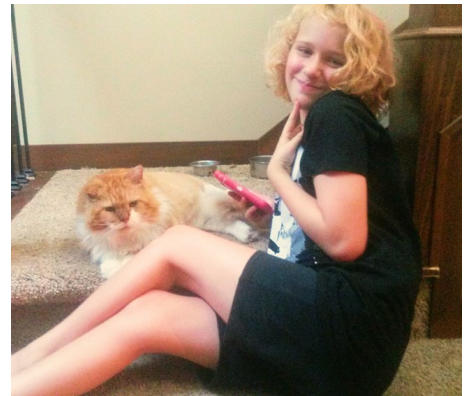
Happy Adoptions!!

All these adoptions have happened since the last issue!

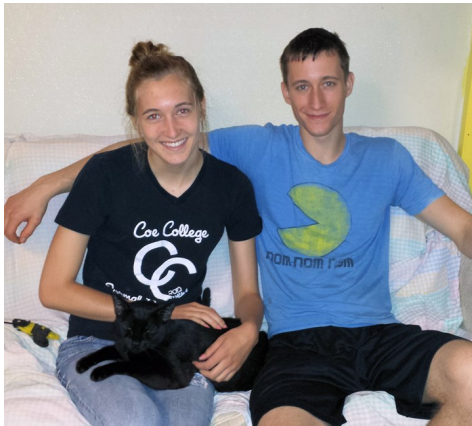


Maranda Rumsey and Alex Swartzendruber spent a lot of time visiting Witty Kitties before making their adoption decision. And they clearly got a very special boy in Geronimo. His former foster dad drove all the way from Kansas City just to see him one more time and say good-bye! After playing hide and seek on the top shelf of their closet, Geronimo has settled right in to his new life.

This was an easy adoption — just down the gravel drive!! When Scorsese came back from his previous home because his adopter returned to grad school, Jenni's daughter Kirsten was so excited that she convinced mom to add him to their family. Their dogs, we hear, are no longer afraid of him!



Sometimes a cat chooses you, and that's what happened when Maddox curled up in Kayla Farran's lap. Kayla and Mason Swager have been volunteering at Witty Kitties for years, and they certainly have had their favorites. More than once we've heard Kayla say to a kitty, "Oh, I wish I could take you home with me!" Something extra special clicked with Maddox, and this time Kayla's wish came true!



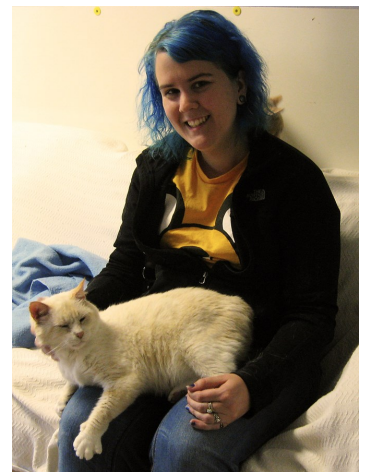
How many people do you know who build an addition onto their home before adopting? That's what Vicki Wheeler, one of our favorite volunteers, did for Walternate! Since he loved

his outdoor enclosure here, Vicki decided she had to give him the same at his new home. Now that's what we call an *already* spoiled rotten (and very lucky) kitty! P.S. Vicki's daughter Alex adopted Dude (aka Ruff) last Christmas, so these two former Witty Kitties roommates are once more together again!

We didn't get a photo of Kate Brightbill holding Mac (now Basque) when she and husband Ethan took him home. What a lucky boy he is!! Kate came to visit him many times over the months they had to wait before moving into their new home. They were very bonded when it was time to move and he's snuggled right in. Since Ethan is out of the country for several months, Basque is the perfect guy to keep Kate company until he returns.



Cierra Laughlin was looking to adopt a Manx, and originally asked us about Manny. But as our mascot, that goof-ball is not available for adoption. Cierra came to the Fall Fur Fest anyway, and Ferdinand proceeded to wrap himself around her ankles. That was all it took! After hiding out for a couple days in her basement, Ferdinand is getting along great with her dog, Charlie, and loves having his butt scratched!!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

Several local businesses donated items for our Fall Fur Fest silent auction. A very big thank you to:

Brenneman's Grooming & Pet Supplies, Iowa City (brennemansgrooming.com)

Leash on Life, Iowa City & North Liberty (leashonlife.net)

Old Capitol Screen Printers, Iowa City (oldcapitol.com)

Hy-Vee Grocery Store on Johnson Ave in Cedar Rapids gives us a generous discount on Hy-Vee Scoopable Cat Litter, and lets us order it by the pallet, saving us many trips to the grocery store!

Pet's Playhouse, 151 Jacolyn Dr NW, Cedar Rapids (pets-playhouse.com), owned by Mike & Sheri Hunt, recently made a huge donation of cat and dog food. The food will help feed our cats and a number of other animals at the shelter. Many thanks for your generosity, Mike & Sheri!

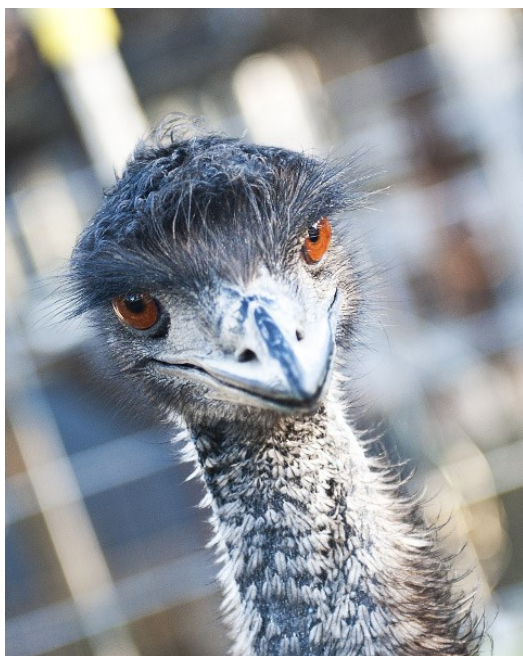
A-One Plumbing, Cedar Rapids (929-1668), whose owner Keith Wyatt and colleague Jim Lieser donated several hours of their time, did a fabulous job removing our cruddy, old laundry room sink and faucet and installing new ones. They even mopped the floor when they were done — that was above and beyond as far as we were concerned! Thanks guys!

If you have an opportunity to support any of these businesses, we hope you'll do so and extend our thanks to them in person!

The Many Faces of Witty Kitties

Photos by Trudy Vrieze, Duluth, MN, vriezephoto.com

(Even more stunning in color — go to wittykitties.org and click on Newsletters)



FUN CAT FACTS

- Adult cats meow only to communicate with humans, not with other cats.
- In relation to their body size, cats have the largest eyes of any mammal.
- A cat's peripheral vision is about 285 degrees.
- Cats need seven times less light than humans to see at night.
- A cat cannot see directly under its nose.
- A cat's nose is ridged with a unique pattern, just like a human fingerprint.
- Cats have over 20 muscles that control their ears.
- Cats can move their ears up to 180 degrees, and they can move them independently.
- Cats can hear sounds as high as 64 kHz, compared to humans, who can hear only as high as 20 kHz.
- A cat laps up liquid from the underside of its tongue, not from the top.
- Cats can't taste sweetness.
- Cats sleep 70% of their lives.
- Cats spend nearly 30% of their waking hours grooming themselves.
- The domestic cat is the only cat species able to hold its tail vertically while walking.
- A frightened cat can run at speeds up to 30 mph.
- A cat can jump five times as high as it is tall.
- Cats only sweat only through their foot pads.
- A cat's brain is more similar to a human brain than to a dog brain.
- Cats have over 100 vocal sounds, dogs around 10.
- A cat's cerebral cortex has 300 million neurons, compared with a dog's 160 million.
- Dogs have owners, cats have staff!!!



Every little bit helps. Visit wittykitties.org to donate via PayPal.



Memorials and Honorariums



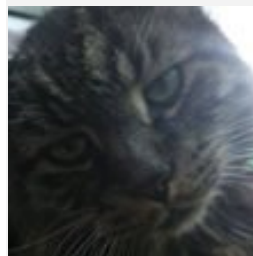
In memory of Xena, the Warrior Princess, who went to the Rainbow Bridge on 7/23/15. She was our jingle kitty, our troublemaker, our little warrior. She was eleven years old but was always a kitten at heart. She will be missed. By Sue Weinberg, Coralville

In memory of Sue Weinberg and Robert Armstrong's beloved cat Xena, whose life was far too short. By Gail Standig-Portman and Jeff Portman, Iowa City

In memory of Xena, from Eileen, Susan, and Ellen Faith Weinberg

In memory of Gus (aka Asparagus), beloved cat of Sue and Don Novak. By Jim and Jerry Buttleman, Cedar Rapids

In memory of PeeWee, Teresa and Tom Kopel's beloved, feisty, and loving boy, and best friend of Seuss. Rest in peace little guy. Love, Kathy, Kristin, & Lisa.

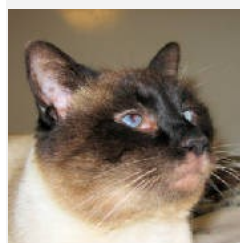


In memory of Arthur, precious 13 year old kitty of David Morse. His antics, especially snoozing in his favorite place (David's keyboard!), will live on thanks to David's Facebook posts. Arthur brought smiles to so many people who never even knew him, including me! By Becky

Zack, Palm Harbor, FL.

In honor of Witty Kitties: "Here is the money (\$6) my friends and I made by having a Kool-Aid sale," from Penelope, daughter of Steve & Anne Wilmoth, Iowa City.

A special shout out to Amy Holcomb — I know you put your heart and soul into caring for these precious cats! By Liz Bertell, Iowa City.



In loving memory of Diesel, who thought human legs were scratching posts, and in honor of Dani Jones and her family, who rescued Diesel and visited him often. By the Witty Kitties' volunteers.

Witty Kitties, Inc.
 3133 Roberts Ferry Rd.
 Solon, IA 52333

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Donating to Witty Kitties

Want to honor or memorialize a family member, friend, or beloved pet? You will help support the work we do at Witty Kitties! Just complete this form and mail your check to Witty Kitties, Inc., 3133 Roberts Ferry Rd, Solon, IA 52333. **Your donation is tax deductible.** We'll publish your memorial or honorarium in the next issue and send a copy of the newsletter to the person or family you are honoring or memorializing. No stamp? No problem! Give via PayPal—just click on the PayPal icon on our home page, wittykitties.org.

Gift: \$ _____

Memorial for: _____ Is this a Person or a Pet?

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Fall, 2015