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Contact Info:

8431-137 Garvey Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616

919 872-1128
919 872-7730
919 872-7732 fax

info@safehavenforcats.org

www.safehavenforcats.org

Comments on the Scratching Post? Send ideas and suggestions to cbiond@nc.rr.com.



All About Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities

Pet Adoptathon 2009

Pet Adoptathon 2009, sponsored by the North Shore Animal League, will be held on May 2nd and 3rd. Thousands of rescue and shelter organizations participate in this event, here and across the world.

This is a huge event – last year over 20,000 animals were adopted during the Adoptathon! Although the focus of this event is dogs and cats, previous years' Adoptathons have resulted in the adoptions of rabbits, horses, and many other animals.

SHFC will be participating in this year's Adoptathon and will

need extra volunteer help that weekend. Keep an eye on your e-mails for more information.

CFA Show on May 9

The Tarheel Triangle Cat Fanciers Association is sponsoring a cat show on May 9 at about 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The show will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Kerr Scott Building.

If you'd like to see what goes on at a cat show and can help out at a table for a couple of hours, please e-mail the shelter at info@safehavenforcats.org.

Tax Hint for volunteers: Do you know that your mileage for trips to and from SHFC is considered a charitable contribution?

Tuxedo Cat Ball

The fifth annual TCB is fast approaching. Tickets can be purchased via the website, by returning the invitation via the US mail, or in person – talk to Pam or Sherri.

You can read about some of the activities that will help make this Ball the best ever in this issue of *The Scratching Post!*

Volunteers Extraordinaire!

We continue to recognize volunteers who've been part of the SAFE Haven for Cats family for many years. Here are volunteers who started in 2003 and who are still contributing to the SAFE Haven mission.

Lisa Bachelder
Lee Kester Reading
Jennifer Henderson
Jim and Donna Colman
Darryl Weatherhead
Doug Rickert
Doris Mason Dominic
Mary Nell Murphy
Suzanne Caso
Lisa Alianti
Katherine M. Link
Kathy Ruse
Gail Stanislavsky
Michelle & Pete De Visser
Woody Vondracek
Tammy Bromley

Thank you all for your years of dedication and service!

Save the Date!
**Fifth Annual
Tuxedo Cat Ball
Friday, April 17, 2009**

**at
Sisters' Garden
2400 West Milbrook Rd, Raleigh**

4,000 Cats and Going Strong!!

SAFE Haven reached an amazing milestone in our 15th anniversary year – we adopted our 4,000th cat! On Tuesday, March 10, Louise Tetreault picked Chunky Boy, a wonderful brown tabby, to share her home.

Louise had no idea that she was the 4000 adopter, so it was quite a surprise when the staff began the celebration. She and Chunky went home with many



Jennifer Vail, Dianne Barrett, Jan Midden, Sherri Orner and Dr. Pethick celebrate with Louise and Chunky Boy

Fifth Annual Tuxedo Cat Ball

The Tuxedo Cat Ball is almost upon us! This year, SHFC's 15th anniversary year, will be the most spectacular ever. The Ball will be held at Sister's Garden, 2400 West Milbrook Rd, North Raleigh, and will feature an elegant reception, drinks, and Sister's famous coffee bar.

But there's much more. You'll have an opportunity to visit with Tom and Julie Suiter, the guest hosts for the ball. You may know Tom as the voice of sports at WRAL-TV in Raleigh. Tom is a vegan who loves walking, yoga, and reading. Julie has been teaching yoga for healing and rejuvenation for 14 years, and is a fruitarian who loves acrobatics, ballet, and nature.

Both Tom and Julie share a love of animals, and appreciate any opportunity to speak up for and support them.

Have you ever heard of *Monsters 101*? It's an action-packed graphic novel series drawn by M. Rasheed, a cartoon illustrator, caricaturist, comic book artist and self-publisher. M. Rasheed will be drawing caricatures of guests at the Ball for a small fee. Check out his work www.mrasheed.com.

A local author, Brian Douglas Coyle, will be at the Ball for a book signing benefiting SAFE Haven. He will publish his third novel, *Sixth Sin – A Story of Greed*, this October. He's written two other books -- *Soul Riders* and *The Devil's Sanctuary*. See www.coylehorrorbooks.com to read more about
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congratulations and lots of goodies.

Chunky came to us through our year-long partnership with the Franklin County Humane Society and the Franklin County Animal Shelter. Chunky is one of over a hundred cats who have found homes through this collaboration.

Much of the credit for the amazing success of the adoption program goes to a great team of adoption counselors.

This team includes Sherri Orner, who manages the program, Laurel Clayton, Ruth Covington, Doug Eader, Kerry Holbrook, Sherry Johnson, Lisa Karner, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Elizabeth Nida, Jill Odom, Cyndi Pearce, Jennifer Reed, Cathy Rindge, Shalea Rhodes, Darryl Weatherhead, Jessie Wofford, and Janice Wroblewski. Adoption Counselors in Training include: Mary Nell Murphy, Gina Register, Wendy Sense, and Olga Wagner.

If you think you'd enjoy matching humans and cats, contact Sherri at the shelter. Perhaps you can be the counselor who helps our 5,000th adopter pick out her new companion!



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ASK THE VET ... *About Neurological Ailments*

by *Betsy Pethick, D.V.M.*

We have several cats in the shelter this month with unique neurological ailments. So, we thought you might like to know a bit more about these special felines.

Taffeta has a condition known as facial nerve paralysis. This is a dysfunction of the facial nerve (7th cranial nerve) which causes paralysis or weakness of the muscles of the ears, eyelids, lips and nostrils.

Facial nerve paralysis can be caused by an inner ear infection, trauma or injury to the facial nerve, a tumor affecting the nerve, or other less common conditions. It can also occur with no known precipitating cause.

In Taffeta's case, it is the right facial nerve that is affected. When you face her, you can see that her right ear sits lower than the left, and the right side of her mouth droops a little. She has learned to accommodate quite well by using her third eyelid to blink and keep her right eye moist and protected.

Kiefer also came to us with a neurological condition, one that affects his right forelimb. Kiefer has radial nerve paralysis. He has no motor nerve function to his foot and severe atrophy of the forelimb muscles, so he walks on the top of his wrist. Sadly, this has resulted in the formation of a large ulcer.

Keifer's condition is most likely the result of a previous traumatic injury. Unfortunately, amputation of the limb is the best way to restore Keifer to better mobility without continued damage to his wrist.

When Brittia was abandoned at the shelter by her previous owner, she was having severe difficulty breathing (and she was pregnant!). Under sedation, we were able to determine that she has a very narrowed laryngeal opening. A biopsy of the area showed that she has a lot of inflamed tissue in the area, but

no evidence of cancer.

Many of you have heard Brittia's trill throughout the shelter. It is possible that she may have a condition known as laryngeal paralysis, which is quite rare in cats. She will be evaluated by Dr. Janine Sagris (who specializes in laser surgery) to see what can be done to

open up her airway and improve her breathing.

We are fortunate that, as a no-kill shelter, we are able to address the special needs of cats such as Taffeta, Kiefer, and Brittia. And we are forever grateful for those that support us through their financial contributions and countless hours of volunteer work.

Yes We Cat!

First Event in New Adoption Space

Planning for the expansion into our new adoption space at the corner of Durant Road and Garvey Drive is well underway. We were able to do a 'test-run' in the new space on Valentine's Day, at an event called 'Yes We Cat!' (with a nod to our new President).

Our new 'cat showroom' is at a perfect location. Durant is a very busy road, and the shopping center at the corner draws in a lot of traffic. As we'd hoped, people stopped in to look at the cats all day long. Location, location, location!

When you enter the space, the first thing you notice is the huge, sunny windows. You can be sure that the cats noticed those windows, too!

We've got some work to do before we can officially move into the new space, including a new fire and security system and dividing the space to provide a lobby and playrooms. A grand opening is planned for sometime in May.



Our new space during the Yes We Cat! adoption event

Spotlight On...

Janet Hensel

Sunday Morning Volunteer and Queen of the Litter Boxes



Janet with her son Craig, Belle (on left), and Bullet

You might suspect Janet Hensel is a crazy cat lady if you walked through her house. EVERYTHING in the house has a cat theme -- paintings, jewelry, clothing, sheets, towels, rugs, a curio cabinet of collectibles, coats, dishes, screen savers, purses, checks -- and, of course, there are a number of living, breathing cats there.

Janet has been volunteering at SHFC since 1999. Like many new volunteers, she was given a choice of working outside cleaning litter boxes, or doing sink duty. She ended up outside, and has stayed there ever since.

In the old days (at the first Garvey Drive location), there were no hoses for the litter brigade, so they used buckets to clean the boxes. Hoses were a big improvement, she says. Janet also picks up litter from the Harris Teeter regularly, and refers to herself as the "Queen of the Litter

Boxes".

Janet adopted her first cat, Yum-Yum, when she was 11. Her first SHFC cat came a few years later (OK, quite a few years later), shortly after she started volunteering at SAFE Haven. Moonstone, a black and white female, went home with Janet in November of 1999. Moonstone joined Pantera, an all-black kitty who had joined Janet's family in 1996.

In 2001 a little gray and white kitten, one of a litter of four, caught Janet's eye and went home with her from SHFC. Janet's son, Craig, named her Bullet. And Rosie, a calico, joined the family when a neighbor couldn't care for her any longer. (Rosie, who's the youngest of the bunch at 3, seems to have a special affection for Craig and his loud music.)

Despite all the focus on cats, Janet volunteered at Adopt a Dog in Connecticut while she lived there, and Craig had a Rottweiler as he was growing up. A few years ago Janet

volunteered to foster a Rottie through the NC Rottweiler Rescue. After the foster dog, Belle, was in the house, the rescue group mentioned that she didn't like other dogs. But as it turned out, she got along really well with cats, so Belle became a permanent part of the household.

Janet says that she built her current house and planned a screened porch so that all the animals could enjoy the outdoors. There's a big cat tree on the porch so the cats can watch the birds and geese, and Belle talks to all the other dogs walking around the pond.

Craig, Janet's son, is 18 and will be graduating this year. In a clear example of the acorn not falling far from the tree, he's finishing off his senior volunteer hours by training under his Mother's guidance -- Sunday mornings you can find him picking up the fine points of litter box cleaning and maintenance in the SHFC's parking area!

Fifth Annual Tuxedo Cat Ball

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Mr. Coyle and his work.

Joshua Lozoff, whose approach to the art of magic escapes the confines of tradition, will be performing table magic at the TCB. He has been studying and sharing magic around the world for the past decade. He has performed in such diverse settings as a maximum-security prison and a remote Guatemalan convent. He also performed at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA, and recently was one of the only two magicians to receive an invitation to perform at the World's Fair in Japan.

In 2007 and again in 2008, his one-man show, Joshua Lozoff: Beyond Belief, broke records in North Carolina by selling out every show. His website is www.deep-magic.com.

Two special anniversary wines with a SAFE Haven label will be offered for tasting and purchase. These wines, a pinot grigio and a merlot, were bottled by Chatham Winery, the first and only winery in the Triangle.

And even more ... Rebecca & the Hi-Tones will provide musical entertainment, there will be live and silent auctions to benefit SHFC's expansion (the live action is often one of the most entertaining parts of the evening!), and a beautiful gold and diamond bracelet will be raffled off.

The TCB is shaping up to be a fabulous evening. You'll have a great time, and even more importantly, you'll be contributing to SHFC's mission and expansion in the next year and beyond.