KITTY CAT NEWS
January 9, 2017

In this issue:
- Cats in our Care & Success Story of the Month
- Behavioral Tips
- How to Build a Shelter for Outdoor Cats During the Winter
- Medical Article
- Did You Know?

Happy New Year!

Thank you to our volunteers, business partners, adopters and donators. We celebrated our 10th anniversary in December and 2016 was another successful year with 450 cats and kittens saved and rehomed. With your help, we are making a difference.

We hope you are enjoying our monthly Newsletter with featured kitties and great educational information. We welcome testimonials and any information you would like to share with us.

Kitty Cat Connection is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization comprised of foster homes. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We are an all volunteer group and all income goes to the care of the cats and kittens. Happy New Year and we are eagerly looking ahead to 2017 in hopes, with your help, of making it another great success as we continue our lifesaving work.

Thank you,
Sandy Coffman, President

Announcement!

Get the 2017 Kitty Cat Connection wall calendars, featuring our beautiful rescue cats and kittens, for a $15 donation. The KCC CUTIES desk calendar, featuring oodles of darling kittens, can be yours for $6 or 2/$10. For more information email Savingatslives@gmail.com

Adoption Location

Adoptions every Saturday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM @
PetSmart Tiffany Springs
8970 NW Skyview Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64154

Cats in adoption center during the week can be adopted by calling the foster home on the cage card.
Cats Available for Adoption!

Lou, male, tabby
My owner lost her job and had to move in with relatives who couldn't take me. I am a sweet boy who is shy at first and can get stressed initially. I was around a Great Dane and another cat. I do not tolerate children and need a quiet, loving home to help me adjust to all the changes in my world. Take a chance on me!
Please contact Britney at 573-356-2411.
My adoption fee is: $100

Izzy, female, tortoiseshell
My owners rescued two large dogs and I became very stressed. So I was returned to KCC after 4 years of being adopted. I am a beautiful kitty who deserves a quiet home with no dogs, cats or kids. Some may even say I have tortitude, as I definitely have a unique personality. I may be shy at first, but I am a loving kitty once you get to know me.
To find out more about me please contact my foster mom Sandy at 816-510-4400.
My adoption fee is: $100

Adoption Callout! Share with your friends, lets give Lovebird a second chance

Lovebird, male, orange
Lovebird is a beautiful young girl who is now healthy and ready for a new home. We rescued Lovebird and 5 other adult cats from a chicken pen where they had been kept there for over a year and never taken out. The conditions were horrid.
Lovebird is a wonderful, friendly, and outgoing kitty who deserves a home where she can shower her owner with love and affection. Lovebird is a beautiful petite playful little kitty who gets along well with other cats.
Please contact her foster mom Sandy at 816-510-4400.

Gobi, male, black
My name is Gobi and I'm sure you can already tell that I am a super friendly kitty. I was adopted when I was 3 months old, but my family returned me. I don't understand why. I am well behaved and loving. I also like other pets. I have lived with both cats and dogs. In fact, I get very lonely without others to play with and would do best in a home where I would have playmates. I also really, really enjoy being brushed!
Please contact Tina at 816-588-0368 for more information.
My adoption fee is: $75
Bo, female, orange

I'm Bo, a friendly tabby kitten. My life before I was rescued was not so easy. My sister, Daisy, and I were caught in a live trap, malnourished and scared. But since then I have made great progress! I may be a little shy at first, but I really like attention once I get to know you. You should hear my purr! I especially enjoy playing with the other foster kittens and would do best in a home with another cat or kitten. Please contact Tina at 816-588-0368 for more information.

My adoption fee is: $75

Daisy, female, torbie

I'm Daisy, and if you can't already tell I am a gorgeous dilute torbie - a tri-color combination that I think is very special! My life before I was rescued was not so easy. My brother, Bo, and I were caught in a live trap, malnourished and scared. I am learning to trust people, and though it takes me some time I am finding out that I really do like them. I get along well with my foster siblings, though I tend to keep to myself at times. And I especially like sitting on the very top of my cat tree. I love mouse toys and treats, too.

Please contact Tina at 816-588-0368 for more information.

My adoption fee is: $75

Success Story

“This story actually starts out one year ago, when I lost my cat Sabryna to lung cancer. She was my baby! My husband had her before we got married and then I had her for the 10 years we were married. I loved this little girl just like she were my own child. I was taking her death so hard and the veterinarian told my husband the best thing to do was get me another kitty. We went to the shelter and got a beautiful tiger kitty! Her name is Hannah! She is such a diva! We were a family once again! I logged into Facebook 2 months ago and my friend Kim posted a picture of one of her homeless kitties. I nearly fell out of my chair! She looked exactly like my Sabryna that I lost to lung cancer! I messaged Kim right away and told her to keep her. The first time we met her, it was love at first sight! Her little face looks just like a little fox, hence the name Foxy. She has a big sister that keeps her in line or should I say Foxy keeps her big sister in line. Foxy is a mama’s girl for sure! She sleeps at my foot of the bed and follows me everywhere. She wants love, love, LOVE! Thank you Kim for bringing us this precious gift! I can’t even imagine life without this beautiful baby now!

-Nancy
Behavioral News!
What is the perfect environment for my cats?
Jey E, MSW

In this picture, I see almost everything a cat needs to feel safe and happy in any home. The only thing we are missing are the litter boxes. But in terms of environment enrichment this picture captures all. Here we have vertical thinking with the shelves on the wall, the perch and the cat tree.

Cats like high vertical places to be able to watch over their territory. This makes them feel secure and happy. Hideaways and tunnels are essential for when the cat feels some anxiety and needs to hide. This helps the cat feel secure and know there are safe places in the house. The tree house allows for the cats’ needs to climb and scratch.

A few scratchers are always a necessity! Cats are scratchers by nature, they don’t do it because they hate you nor to be vengeful. In the wild cats scratch to stretch their back and shoulder muscles, to remove the dead outer layer of their nails, or just to release stress. If you live in a multi-cat house your cats might be scratching furniture to mark their areas, since cats have scent markers on their paws. Its important to watch your cat’s behavior and get a scratcher that suits the movement your cat prefers for scratching and matches the texture being scratched. For example, if your cat is scratching your sofa, is it horizontal or vertical? What type of texture is your sofa? After answering these two questions pick a scratcher that matches your answers and put it where your cat is currently scratching. Play with your kitty around the new scratcher so the cat associates the scratcher as a good area to be at. Finally add some catnip to the new addition. Important, a good horizontal scratcher is 32 inches and sturdy.

A feeding station is always essential. And if you have more than one cat you should have a feeding station per cat, so the cats don’t compete for resources! And finally, they need toys, which are stimulating and allow the cat to release bounds of energy that it would use in the wild to hunt for food.
As part of my feline behavioral preparation I have been shadowing a vet for quite some time and I have seen several cases of Urinary Tract Disease (UTD). In this article we are describing UTD as lower urinary tract disease. According to PetMD “If your cat is suffering from FLUTD, your cat may strain to urinate, urinate outside of the litter box, have blood in the urine, or cry when trying to urinate. Your cat may eat less and become irritable. You may even see your cat licking excessively at the belly, or at his or her penile or vulvar area, respectively”. One of the most common cases feline behaviorist work with are cat urinating outside the box. The first thought would be to take the cat to a vet to make sure the cat is not suffering from a blockage, since this can obstruct the urine and be life threatening.

If the vet states the cat has a FLUTD, then there are some tips that will help to reduce the cat’s problems.

1. Avoid stress. According to PetMD “Stress is known to cause urinary tract disease in cats. Interstitial cystitis, a type of FLUTD, is commonly associated with stress. Unfortunately, cats can be stressed by factors that we may not suspect. And we may not always have complete control over these factors. Changes in routine, interactions with other pets, and new family members in the household are some of the things that cats may find stressful, but there are many others”. You can verify what are the cat’s triggers and remove them. You can also get Feliway Plug-ins or a Feliway collar. If you live in a multi-cat house, make sure your cats have several litterboxes and that no other cats are “guarding” the litterbox. Sometimes this can lead your cat to hold in the urine, or get very anxious.

2. Very important! Feed a high quality diet. The vet I have been shadowing stresses this as one of the most important elements to having a healthy pet. A preferred diet is wet food; why wet? Because usually cats don’t drink much water and a healthy urinary tract is achieved by having a balanced PH, for this, water is necessary. If your cat is eating a poor diet and on top of this the food is dry then all of the fillers, and toxins used to make the food are going to remain in your cat’s body. This is why the best food for cats is wet, and grain free, because cat’s body are not designed to metabolize large amounts of grains, which is why their diet in the wild consists mainly of mice, birds etc. On the other hand, if the diet doesn't work, your vet might recommend putting your cat on an especial diet.

Don’t get stressed about this. I recently found that UTD is a common illness in cats. The great thing about this is that if caught on time these can be treated. My cat, Yoshi started urinating outside the box, in random places around the house. The vet told me he had crystals in his urine, but not to worry because with a high quality diet he was going to live a long and happy life! Since then Yoshi has been doing great. He loves his food and he hasn't had any problems.
Kitty Cat Connection spends most of its funding on vet bills, paying for neutering, shots and getting sick kitties well. Another large portion is spent on food and litter for our foster homes. Since we are a small group, we don't have large corporate sponsors supporting us. We count on individual donations to keep us afloat. We thank you for all your support and all the money given goes to the cats!