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www.facebook.com/kindredkitties

*It is impossible to keep a straight face
in the presence of one or more kittens!*

-- Cynthia E. Varnado

From the President

No matter how hard we try, it always seems that we have one quarter or another where we are just unable to get a newsletter published quickly enough. So it was for 4th Quarter 2011. Thus, in this newsletter, we will cover both end-of-year news and the first bit of "new year" news.

The highlight of the last quarter of 2011 was our VERY successful "It's In The Bag" fundraiser held November 13th at Bombay Louie's. Thanks to the efforts of the "Itty Bitty Kitty Committee," we were able to put together an event that helped us to raise 25% more in funds than last year. Congratulations IBKC and thanks to all who participated in the event!!!

The number of cats we foster over the winter months is generally lower than during the height of kitten season, but we continue to get many, many calls from people asking to surrender their cats to us, for various reasons (not all good ones, of course). But, we must say "no" so often because we lack a sufficient number of foster homes willing to take an adult cat. Please consider fostering. It is very rewarding and can make such a difference in the life of a cat!

A big thank you for all that you do to help Kindred Kitties in so many ways -- both financially and with your time -- we are so grateful for your support!!

Sincerely,

Donna Kelly, President



NEWS UPDATES

STATS

Adoptions – For the full year 2011, we had 422 adoptions (263 kittens, 87 teens and 72 adults) versus 522 in 2010. The primary difference is in adult adoptions – we adopted 45% less adults in 2011. Due to lack of sufficient foster homes, we have had no choice but to rescue fewer adults throughout the year. In January this year, we had 34 adoptions.

Spay/Neuter – We spayed/neutered a whopping 656 cats in 2011. This is about 100 less than we did in 2010, but still, the number of cats we are able to alter is significant and does make a difference to overall cat population in our area—one cat at a time!! And, so far in 2011, we've already spayed/neutered 75!

Foster Care – We ended 2011 with 116 cats in foster care. In total, we are currently caring for 100 cats. The Adoption Center is housing 43 (at least six of these are considered more permanent residents). The foster home count is 57 – including eight considered “permanent” fosters due to special needs. Generally by year-end we choose to stay closer to the 100 mark, as the majority of kittens are adopted. We continue to need foster homes – particularly for both adoptable and special-needs adults!

EVENTS

Brownie Troop Adoption Center Visit – On November 10th, we hosted Brownie Troop #7262 at our Adoption Center, and helped them to earn their Animals ‘Try-It’ badge. They took up a collection at school and brought us a huge bunch of needed items, including toys for the kitties. It was great fun and a good learning experience for the girls. Thank you Leaders, Michelle Ripper and Courtney Spencer, and Troop 7262!!



‘It’s In The Bag’ Fundraiser – November 13th was a great day for us!!! Not only was it a lot of fun, it was very successful from a fundraising standpoint. A very special thanks goes out to the Itty Bitty Kitty Committee, chaired by Jane Broughton-Schaefer and co-chaired by Anita Johnson. Everyone worked very long and hard to gather items for auction, publicize the event, and in general, pull together all the details to make the event what it was – spectacular. And a big thanks to Bombay Louie’s for once again hosting our event and keeping everything running smoothly throughout the night.



Girl Scout Troop #7376 Visit – On January 22nd, we hosted Leader Stephanie Brown and her Girl Scout Troop #7376. We are closed on Sundays, so it was great for the cats to have special company that day. The girls spent a great deal of time petting and playing with all the kitties. They did a collection of supplies for us and brought us wonderful blankets that they made for the cats. We are giving the blankets to people when they adopt a kitty as a special gift from the troop. Thanks for making that Sunday a very special one for us!!



EVENTS (contd)

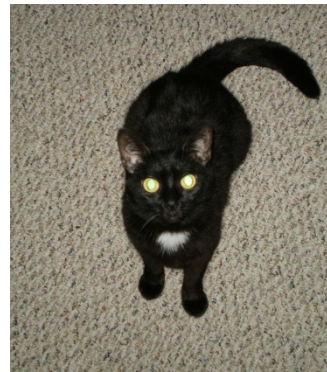
Rescue Animal Awareness Adoption Day (R.A.A.A.D.) – On January 28th, at Trefoil Oaks in Kenosha County, Girl Scout Troop #5821 led by Laura Eisel and Pauline Honore, held an awesome event highlighting the plight of homeless animals. The event was the way that the troop chose to earn their Silver Award. And wow, did they earn it!!! Everything was very well thought out and put together. It involved a great deal of planning and hard work -- the girls can be very proud of what they accomplished! Kindred Kitties and Hope Safe House were both participants. It was a good turnout and a great day! Thanks to Laura, Pauline and the girls for including Kindred Kitties in such a special event! And, thanks to KK volunteers Kirsten Allhusen and Pauline Lorenz for their assistance.



Benefit In Memory of Brenna Betts – According to General Manager, Laurie Ann Perkins, one of the games played at **Rockhead's Comics & Games** shop on 63rd Street in Kenosha is a tabletop miniature golf game called *HeroClix*, and they have a great group of guys who play each week, including John Benton, who runs the games. John decided he wanted to set up a special tournament and raise money for Kindred Kitties. He asked that the tournament be held in memory of Brenna Betts—a kitty that belonged to very good friends of his. And WOW, the event was a huge success – thank you so much to the twelve people who played in the tournament, who not only had a great time, but also raised over \$700 for our kitties!!

Brenna's 'parents' were amazed at the amount raised in her honor and said, "We're humbled that a group of people could be so generous in the name of our kitty. Brenna would be proud you all are helping other cats find homes. She was a shelter kitty, too, and every days was worth the mutual love, affection, entertainment, cuddles and purrs. Thank you!!"

Abie & Jason Betts



A cat-less writer is almost inconceivable. It's a perverse taste, really, since it would be easier to write with a herd of buffalo in the room than even one cat; they make nests in the notes and bite the end of the pen and walk on the typewriter keys.

~Barbara Holland



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are still in need of individuals who are able to volunteer their time for the following tasks:

- Assisting in cleaning the Adoption Center (10-Noon Sunday; 9-11am Saturday)
- Assisting with daily cleaning of Petco permanent cages
- Transporting of beds/adoption box each Saturday by noon to Petco for our weekend adoption event
- Assisting in getting the Adoption Center basement thoroughly organized and cleaned
- Doing telephone follow ups on adoptions and spay/neuter status
- Painting, refurbishing, and making repairs at our Adoption Center (tools/supplies provided)
- Cleaning up and repainting our basement bathroom (tools/supplies provided)
- Helping at adoption events at Petco or PetSmart on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon
- Planning and executing fundraising events
- Fostering of cats and kittens

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please call 262/605-0533 and leave a message. Thanks!!

DID YOU KNOW ...

... Ten Flea Facts

1. A flea can jump 200 times the length of its body. If you were a flea, you could jump over two football fields in one leap.
2. Fleas have special, turned-out claws on the end of their legs that allow them to do a "ninja-grab" on any passing critters as they are flying through the air.
3. If you happen to see one flea, there may be more than 100 offspring or adults looming nearby in furniture, corners, cracks, carpeting, or on your pet!
4. Female fleas can lay up to 50 eggs per day and over 2,000 eggs in her lifetime. Ewww!!
5. Undisturbed and without a blood meal, pupae can live more than 100 days.
6. Female fleas consume 15 times their own body weight in blood daily.
7. Flea Bites! Flea saliva can cause allergic reactions that result in hair loss, secondary infections, and thickened skin with sores.
8. Fleas can lead to diseases that affect your pet's health such as anemia, tapeworms, plague and Rickettsiosis.
9. Any area inhabited by wildlife may be infested with fleas, just waiting to hitch a ride as your pet passes by.
10. Once there is a flea infestation, it can take a few months to rid your home of fleas. The flea pupae are protected by their cocoon and need to hatch into adult fleas to be killed. THINK PREVENTION – USE A FLEA PREVENTATIVE (Revolution, Frontline, etc.) ON YOUR PETS REGULARLY!!

By Jaime Gesky (*Care's Pet Gazette*, Volume 11, Issue 2)



THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

We can't thank all of you enough for your support! We make every effort to acknowledge all who contribute to Kindred Kitties in a variety of ways. Be sure to know if you are not acknowledged in the listing below, that it is unintentional. You can be sure that we are very appreciative!

- To our tirelessly dedicated volunteers who foster kitties, spend time with our Adoption Center cats, run errands, test and vaccinate kitties, and in general, keep Kindred Kitties "up and running"
- To 10-year old Ryan Hudgins for donating the proceeds of his October bake sale
- To Christine and Graysie Whelan for joining the volunteer ranks as a foster family
- To *Cooler Near The Lake* for their June Fundraiser on our behalf
- To Christie Graham for a percent of her commission; and to Roy & Carol Bursek, home purchasers who chose Kindred Kitties as recipient
- To Jeff and Gina Pickhardt for providing us with funding to replace our washer
- To all who use GoodSearch/GoodShop and generated over \$175 in funds (3rd Quarter 2011)
- To Happy Endings cat Rescue for sharing cases of canned kitten milk replacement and Fromms cat food with us
- To organizations such as Abbott Labs, United Way of Lake County and All State Insurance for including Kindred Kitties in their list of charities to choose from for payroll deduction
- To Macrina Forest for donating her 11th birthday presents
- To Hy-Safe Technology in Union Grove for their generous gift
- To *Comfort for Critters* who knitted and donated some wonderful cat carrier blankets
- To Leaders Renee Moerke and Cindy Kaul, and Girl Scout Troop 5162 for bringing us a basket of supplies for us to the R.A.A.A.D. event in January
- To Mission Fish for Online Community Seller Donations
- To Marie DeBock for her gifts on behalf of Amelia, her sponsored Kindred Kitty
- To Jane Broughton-Schaefer for cleaning of our Adoption Center ceiling fans
- To teen, Lexi Doersch who gave a portion of money that was gifted to her
- To William Jewell for 12 cases of water for volunteers
- To Shirley & Jeff Warnock and to Chip Olgrin for installing our new hot water heater

MEMORIAMS

Jeanne Greninger (and Mitzi) - In memory of Liesl

Marilyn & Gene Olson - In memory of Sweetie, their 18-year old cat

Adolph & Judith Migliano - In memory of their daughter Laura Lee, an avid cat lover

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Krause - In memory of their son Steven E. Krause

Jane Broughton-Schaefer - In memory of Rebecca Beltoya

Connie & Charles Brandt - In memory of George McCarron

Gerold & Kathleen Jacobs - In memory of little stray kitty we helped them with, who died of cancer

Marge Illich - In memory of kitties Charlie & Dixie

Paula & Steven Penn - In memory of Lala

Patti Craig - Memorial donation on behalf of Margaret Craig

Susan Rakow - In memory of Dorothy Keys

Lois Baintner - In memory of Dorothy Keys

HONORARIUMS

Larry & Marilyn Anderson - In honor of Kindred Kitty, Lady (now Kate)

Marilyn Jensen - In honor of Sheri's Wild Cats

David Wimer - In honor of his granddaughter Katie McLain

Kim Fox - In honor of her Kindred Kitty, Tippy Top Hat (now Skunky)



HONORARIUMS (contd)

Neal Joffe – In honor of his Kindred Kitty, Strawberry
Penny Seymoure – In honor of her kitties Shelby and Feli
Bruce Collins – In honor of Kindred Kitties volunteer, Paul Cook
Jill Kreuzpaintner – In honor of Steven Penn's cats
Sherri Wistrom – In honor of Vanessa Furball
Jamie McGuire – In honor of David Ladesma on his 45th birthday
Patti & Donald Stolfi – In honor of Steven & Paula Penn
Louis & Heidi Rondou – For Phyllis, in honor of Misty
ADRC Staff – In honor of Kindred Kitties volunteer, Stephanie DeBock
Mary Chatterton – In honor of Kindred Kitties volunteer, Kaitlyn Becker
Erin Howland – In honor of Kindred Kitty, Duke
Lorraine Perkins – In honor of Missy

And to those of you who gift us with supplies, food and hard-earned dollars, thank you so much!!!

Paul Cook	Bruce Blitzan	Carmen Harper
Alex & Kathleen Tarsitano	Julie Schroeder	Jane Broughton-Schaefer
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Carol Schroeder	Catherine Schmdt	Mary Levall
Gail Goydstun	Bonnie Arnold	Helen Havranek
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Mary & Wally Tarczewski	Laurie Fenton	Lezley Woodbury
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Taylor Balog	Randy & Karen Kong	Madeline Buencamino
M.M. & D.P. Richmond	Laura Wagoner	James & Patricia Locke
Louise Zastrow	Robert Brooks	Patty Craig
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	P.M. Richmond	



HEALTH WATCH – ACNE: ALL CATS ARE AT RISK

Despite its typical durability, a cat's skin is subject to a wide array of disorders. Most are minor and relatively treatable, but should not be ignored. Among the various feline skin conditions that might be overlooked is acne. This disorder, characterized by the emergence of tiny blackheads on a cat's chin and lips, is a condition that can afflict both male and female cats of all ages and breeds.

"The presence of blackheads usually amounts to nothing more than a cosmetic problem," says William H. Miller Jr., VMD, a professor of dermatology at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. "However," he points out, "feline acne—which appears only on an affected cat's face—can evolve into a serious health issue if the blackheads turn into pus-filled boils (furuncles) that may signal the presence of a bacterial or fungal infection."

A blackhead forms when excess keratin—an insoluble protein that is the chief constituent of hair—collects in a hair follicle. Over time, a sufficient collection of oily keratin debris can plug the hair follicle. "If there are bacteria, yeast or other infectious agents sealed in by the plug," says Dr. Miller, "a furuncle will develop. Then there is pus below the surface of the skin that can spread from one pimple to another, and eventually to the entire chin. This happens rarely, but when it does the infection can progress to a systemic illness." He goes on to point out, "It's not a skin condition that, in and of itself, can kill a cat, but if it is ignored, the animal is apt to become very uncomfortable."

Commonly suspected causes of acne include dirty, bacteria-laden food and water bowls (Dr. Miller believes it's not so much the *type* of bowl--plastic or ceramic or metal--used so much as the *cleanliness* of the bowl); allergies; genetic predisposition; poor grooming habits; clogged hair follicles resulting from inadequate shedding; defects in keratin production; and overproduction of sebum (a waxy substance produced by the sebaceous glands in the skin).

After examining an acne-ridden cat, a vet may conclude that the caregiver can treat the condition at home. This can be achieved through gentle washing and application of such over-the-counter products as hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, mouthwash, and certain medicated acne pads designed for human use. Treatment of severe acne—marked by the presence of a large furuncle—is considered more complicated. The first objective will be for the vet to determine the type of infection present. Medication will then be determined accordingly, with appropriate antibacterial or antifungal drugs. These medications will be used either topically or, if the infection appears to be severe, systemically.

"You don't have to routinely examine your cat's face to discover blackheads," Dr. Miller says. "Unless you have very poor eyesight, you'll notice them. If a cat has a half-dozen or even as many as 20, there is probably no cause for concern. But, some cats will have hundreds of them. In that case, it's time for a visit to the vet for proper prophylaxis and specific acne treatment."

By Tom Ewing (Cat Watch, April 2009)

WISH LIST Remember, your donations are tax-deductible!

\$\$\$ Donations for Vet Care
Canned Cat & Kitten Food (Pate')
Kitten Chow
Nice Hand Towels
Paper Towel
Toys, Toys, Toys

22# White Computer Paper
Small/Medium Cat Carriers
Clay Cat Litter (Non-Scented)
Grooming Brushes/Combs
Lint Rollers
Post-It Notes (All Sizes)

Laundry Soap (Powder or Liquid)
Dish Soap
Liquid Hand Soap
Heavy-Duty 30-Gallon Trash Bags
60-Watt Light Bulbs
PLEASE, NO CAT TREATS!!

