

## **THE BOARD ROOM**

### **2012 Officers**

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<b>Secretary</b>	Cathy McDowell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Seibert
<b>Members-at-Large</b>	Jennifer Gallion Pauline Lorenz Scott Sanborn

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**Adoption Event Coordinator** - Jen Gallion

**Web Master** – Michelle Laycock

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**Adoption Center, 614 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha**  
**262/605-0533**



**[www.facebook.com/kindredkitties](http://www.facebook.com/kindredkitties)**

*Our lives begin to end the day we  
become silent about things that matter.*  
-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### **From the President**

The first three months of this year went by quickly – how time does fly! And, here we are again just moving into another kitten season!

Thanks to you, our supporters, we had sufficient funds to keep things going smoothly and efficiently through the winter months. The number of cats we fostered throughout the 4th quarter last year and the 1st quarter this year was well-managed, and we were able to rescue and re-home some additional adults and teens.

But in the last couple of weeks, we have already been doing intake on a fairly significant number of kittens! And, concurrently, the demand on our general funds to care for these kittens is already very much greater than during the winter months.

Please go to Page 5 of this newsletter to see where our greatest needs will be over the next several months.

We are very grateful to all of you who so steadfastly support us in a variety of ways – both with your time and your money. We could not do what we do without you!!! Thank you so much for your support of our efforts!!

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Donna Kelly, President



## **NEWS UPDATES**

### **STATS**

**Adoptions** – For the first four months of 2012, we re-homed 106 kitties (33 adults, 22 teens and 51 kittens). Interestingly, last year we had well over 40 teens available for adoption in the first quarter, which was not the case this year, so 2012 adoption numbers are lagging behind last year by about 20%.

**Spay/Neuter** – We are tracking about even on number of spay/neuters we had performed in the first four months this year. We facilitated the spay/neuter of 255 total cats — 226 of which were owned cats. Offering the low-cost spay/neuter program to the general public allows us to recover some of the cost of fixing our own kindred kitties. Where we were unable to help in some areas, we were able to refer individuals to other alternative programs to ensure that we maximize spay/neuters in general.

**Foster Care** – We ended 2011 with 116 cats in foster care. In total, we are currently caring for 154 cats, having very recently acquired nearly 50 kittens! The Adoption Center is housing 32 (at least 10 that will likely remain as permanent residents). The foster home count is now at 122 – including 13 that are considered “permanent” fosters due to special needs. And our regular appeal still stands – we are so in need of good foster homes – particularly for both adoptable and special-needs adults!

### **EVENTS**

**Carwash Fundraiser** – Station owner Kevin Stein and his fiancée Chris Fay chose Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to promote a carwash fundraiser at their BP service station on I-94 and Highway 50.



Twenty-five percent of revenue for car washes on that day were donated to Kindred Kitties. We are pleased to report that we received money to purchase canned food for our foster kitties. Thanks to Kevin and Chris for their efforts on our behalf!!

P.S. The kitty on the flyer promoting the event is none other than Kindred Kitty, Oreo Cookie (now Smarty Jones) who was adopted in December, 2007!

**Caitlyn's Birthday Visit** – On Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we hosted Caitlyn Hall and her pals at the Adoption Center for a visit. Since Caitlyn is a huge cat lover, she and her mom Crystal decided to have attendees at her party give her birthday presents to the kitties! Our kitties received a wonderful bunch of “stuff” that makes a really difference in helping us to care for the cats! Thank you to the birthday girl, Caitlyn and her mom Crystal for making Kindred Kitties a part of her special day!



*I wish people would realize that animals are totally dependent on us, helpless, like children -- a trust that is put upon us.*

*-- James Herriott*



## **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
- 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)
- 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 ...***

### ***... Feline Body Language***

- Eyes - Emotions play a large part in the shape and size of a cat's pupils. A narrowed pupil is reflective of a cat who is feeling both content and relaxed (the optimal time to begin play with a cat). A dilated pupil means the cat is generally upset or agitated, or is ready to fight and trying to scare an opponent away (move and talk slowly or avoid interacting with the cat at all).
- Whiskers - Cats are near-sighted and rely heavily on their whiskers for navigation. Cats use their whiskers to determine the distance between two objects, avoid obstacles and guide their movement. When a cat's whiskers are pointed forward, the cat is happy and content. When they are pointed outward, it indicates tenseness or excitement. And, when whiskers are flattened against the face, it indicates shyness or fear.
- Ears - Ears pointed forward indicate that a cat is curious, alert and interested in her surroundings. If ears are pricked skyward but turning slightly backward, it indicates apprehension and ambivalence. When ears are lying flat, beware - this is indicative of fright or a feeling of threat.
- Tail - An erect and still tail indicates that the cat is calm and alert but not yet defensive or aggressive. When your cat holds his tail entirely straight, only allowing the tip to waver back and forth, he is showing excitement about what he sees. Whipping the tail to and fro generally signifies growing annoyance or agitation - use caution. Holding the tail straight out communicates aggression.
- Fur - A raised fur ridge along the back indicates arousal and alarm. When a cat's fur stands evenly erect all over his body, he is feeling overly stressed and attempting, with this defensive stance, to make himself look bigger.
- Overall Posture - Cats that are becoming defensive and don't want to interact may crouch down on their front legs with their ears flat back. Aggressive cats will arch their backs with their tail out and their ears rotated back (but not flat) and their legs extended and placed wide apart. A bend in the back legs may mean timidity or indecisiveness. Many cats will exhibit signs of both offensive and defensive postures
- Signs of Affection - When a cat rubs his head on a person or "head butts" (also known as bunting), he is marking that person as his territory. Slow eye blinks are a gesture given to caregivers showing the cat is comfortable with them. And licking or grooming a person is another way of extending affection.

*Excerpts from Cat Fancy, June 2012*



## **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!

- We continue to give our very special thanks 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" – we couldn't do ANYTHING without your efforts
- To volunteers who assisted at the January Culvers event – we had a great night – over \$250 for KK
- To Abbott Labs employees for your generous payroll deductions: Leticia Dabbs, Candy Acosta, Julie Nudi, Heidi Hocker, Ronald Gott, David Bott, Anonymous
- To Maria DeBock for her regular visits to Amelia at the Adoption Center and for sponsoring her care and keeping
- To William Jewell for providing us with bottled water for our many hard-working volunteers
- To Sue Taylor who held a Holiday Party and received over \$100 for Kindred Kitties from Patricia Bauer, David Perugini, Sandra Zons and Jane Herrington-Heide and also gave food and litter for our use
- To new Kindred Kitties member, Terri Sima – welcome!
- To Stephanie Karls for proceeds from her Party Lite Candle Sales
- To David & Danielle Schweitzer and to Kathy Pope for their contribution to our Spay/Neuter Program
- To Cooler Near The Lake for their February fundraising event and for some really awesome catnip toys
- To Evelyn Olson for her contribution for vet bills for our diabetic foster kitty, Otis
- To SuperValu-Kenosha for the gift certificate we used for canned cat food
- To members of Beta Phi Epsilon Fraternity (Carthage College) for their help in cleaning up the Adoption Center basement (Chelsea Woodyard, Allison Mann, Carissa Sanchez, Clare Reinholt, Shaun Adams)
- To Kathy Schulz, Courtney McManama and Lis Czernick for contributions of catfood and supplies
- To the Parkside Quilters for their wonderful donation of handmade cat beds
- To Girl Scout Troop 7386 for volunteering eight hours at triathlon events and earning a donation from Xtra Mile to Kindred Kitties
- To Jane Broughton-Schaefer for donating her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday gifts to us
- To Christie Graham for donating 3% of her real estate commission and for Amanda & John Quinonez, new homeowners who designated Kindred Kitties as the recipient

## **MEMORIAMs**

Bill & Laurie Fenton in memory of their daughter Kelly Ann Fenton

Lisa & Greg Glista in memory of their cat Murry

Jill Hancock in memory of Rags (aka kindred kitty "Runt" adopted 9/16/06)

## **HONORARIUMs**

Linnea Elrod – in honor of Otis (our diabetic kindred kitty)

Marie Debock – in honor of Amelia

## **IN SPECIAL SUPPORT OF YIN**

Anita Johnson, Robert Brooks, Lisa Becker, Alyssa & Samantha Congdon, Gina Pickhardt, Gail Morgan, Carol Ann Garner, Wren Ide, Sandra DeCesaro, Alex & Kathy Tarsitano, Deb Klaben, Judy Reynolds, Scott Matel, Shari Due, David Tomaloff, Lorraine Mich, Deborah Klingbeil, Karl & Carrie Evert, Cathy & Frank Pacholec, Katie Grum, Marie DeBock



**And to those of you who have sent your special gifts to support us -- thank you so much!!!**

Paul Cook	Keith Walker
Alex & Kathleen Tarsitano	Emily Nichol
Bruce Blitzan	Jane Broughton-Schaefer
Mission Fish	Cassandra Brown
Scott Fairclough	Robert & Jennifer Johnson
Tiffany Bose	Kathleen & John Weyker
Jeff & Gina Pickhardt	Madeline Buecamino
Marilyn Jensen	John Coates
Timothy Woloszyk	M.M. & D.P. Richmond
Nora Pavao	Jennifer & Daniel Madore
Sandy Ravera	Sandra Barnes
Shirley Aldred	Anthony & Sheila Borre
Thomas Mielke	Lauren Hendrickson
Paula Lattergrass	K. Schroeder
David Wimer	Rita Gronemeyer
Anita Johnson	

### **"SPRING HAS SPRUNG" WISH LIST!!!**

With our intake of kittens and our checkups on our longer-term residents in spring, our costs grow like the grass! And you can help us cut them!!

Deworming/De-fleaing	\$5.00
2 Distemper Vaccines	\$10.00
Rabies Vaccine	\$10.00
Testing for Feline Leukemia	\$15.00
Basic Intake of 1 Kitten	\$30.00
Average Neuter Cost	\$50.00
Average Spay Cost	\$70.00
Vet Visit with Blood Work	\$75.00

### **BASIC WISH LIST**

\$\$\$ Donations for Vet Care	22# White Computer Paper	Cardboard Cat Scratchers
Canned Cat & Kitten Food (Pate')	Clay Cat Litter (Non-Scented)	Dish Soap
Kitten Chow	Grooming Brushes/Combs	Liquid Hand Soap
Nice Hand Towels	Lint Rollers	Heavy-Duty 30-Gallon Trash Bags
Paper Towel	Post-It Notes (All Sizes)	
Small/Medium Cat Carriers	60-Watt Light Bulbs	PLEASE, <u>NO</u> CAT TREATS!!

***Remember, your donations are tax-deductible!***



## **HEALTH WATCH – Petting Aggression in Cats: Biting The Hand That Loves You**

Many cat owners have had the pleasure of petting their cat, when seemingly all of a sudden, the cat bites their hand and runs away, often stopping to groom. This may be termed petting-induced, petting-related, or status-related aggression. Cats are normally not as social as dogs, nor do they have as much physical contact with others of their species. They may groom each other or sleep close to each other, but have few other contact behaviors. Petting is something outside of their normal instinctive behavior. There are multiple theories regarding the cause of petting-induced aggression.

Improper Socialization – Cats need to be socialized to people very early in their life. Cats that have even five minutes of human contact each day of their lives up to seven weeks of age will be much more trusting of people than those cats that did not have human contact until they were older. This theory does not totally explain aggressive behavior, since properly socialized cats can still display petting-induced aggression.

Sensitivity Threshold – According to this theory, the cat enjoys human contact at first, but then the repetitiveness of petting becomes irritating. The cat turns and bites as a way to say, “I’ve had enough.” An analogy to human behavior can be made. If someone pats you on the back, it feels good. If they continue to pat you, it becomes annoying and you will either move away from them or ask them to stop.

Pain – If a cat has a painful medical condition, your touch or even the cat’s perception that s/he may be touched in a painful area could cause the aggressive behavior.

Sudden Awakening – Cats may find petting very pleasurable and actually fall asleep (even though their eyes may be open). If they suddenly awake, they may not recognize the petting as such, but feel that you are trying to confine them. They instinctively bite and run (displaying petting-related aggressive behavior) before they are fully aware of what is going on.

Control – In this theory, aggressive behavior is explained by the cat’s need to control the situation – when the petting starts and when it stops. It is a way for the cat to assert his/her dominance.

Each cat is unique. Some cats enjoy lots of contact and others do not. Understanding your cat is key!

Know the Warning Signs! – Some owners will report that their cat suddenly turns and bites them. However, with close observation, certain clues are often apparent: the ears may go back, the skin or tail may start to twitch, the pupils may dilate, there may be a low growl, the claws may become unsheathed or the body may stiffen. If you note any of these signs, stop all movement and allow the cat to leave. Do NOT physically correct the cat if s/he does turn and bite – it may cause increased aggression!!

Once you are aware of the warning signs, you can start to time how long your cat likes to be petted. If the warning signs start after two minutes, don’t pet the cat more than a minute and a half. Or, you might consider changing the way you pet the cat. Some cats prefer to receive short, small strokes, while others may prefer whole-body strokes or being scratched under the chin.

You may be able to relieve your cat’s petting-related stress by offering a reward for not biting. After each stroke, offer your cat small bits of cooked chicken or other food s/he really likes. Repeat several times a day, giving only a few strokes at a time so you don’t approach his/her threshold of intolerance. In time, your cat may start to relate the petting to something very enjoyable.









In summary, many cats will show aggression after a certain amount of petting. Recognize the warning signs and stop petting before they occur. Make sure your cat doesn’t have a medical condition that could cause pain or irritability. You may be able to make petting more enjoyable for your cat, or you may need to accept your cat just the way s/he is and give/get affection on his/her terms!!!

*(Excerpts from PetEducation.com – Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc. Veterinary Services Department)*



**KINDRED KITTIES T-SHIRT & SWEATSHIRT SALE!!** -- We are pleased to offer a sale of Kindred Kitties 50/50 Blend T-Shirts and Gildan 50/50 Heavy Blend™ Crewneck Sweatshirts. Please complete your order form and send your order form along with a check/ money order for the total dollar amount due to: *Kindred Kitties Apparel Order, 614 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha WI 53140.* **OR**, for those of you who prefer to order online, please scan and E-mail your order form to [cathrynmc@aol.com](mailto:cathrynmc@aol.com) and concurrently submit your payment through PayPal through [www.kindredkitties.org](http://www.kindredkitties.org). PLEASE CLEARLY INDICATE "CLOTHING ORDER" WHEN PAYING VIA PAYPAL.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ORDERS IS: FRIDAY, JULY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Pick-Up/Shipment is scheduled beginning the week of AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup>

<u>Items/Prices</u>	<u>Sizes</u>	<u>Available Apparel Colors (Print will be White)</u>			
Sweatshirt * Add \$5 for 2X/3X	Small		Purple		Red
	Medium		Light Blue		Light Pink
	Large		Sapphire Blue		Navy Blue
T-Shirt * Add \$5 for 2X/3X	XL		Carolina Blue		Serene Green
	2XL				
	3XL				

<u>Item</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
<b>Note: If you plan to pick up, this line should be \$0; we will contact you when apparel is available for pick up.</b>			<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$5.00 Per Item</b>	\$
			<b>TOTAL ORDER</b>		\$

Name [PRINT LEGIBLY]
Full Address (Including City/State/Zip code)
Phone Number & E-Mail Address (If Available)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDERING OF KINDRED KITTIES APPAREL, PLEASE CALL 262/605-0533 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE!!!**

