

Purrs & Meows



July 2024 Newsletter

Kindred Kitties is a non-profit, no-kill rescue organization aimed at proactively addressing the plight of homeless cats.

Kindred Kitties Board of Directors

Ryan Erjavac - President
Jimee Dunn - Vice President
Kristin Agner - Treasurer
Mary Kessenich - Secretary
Cathy McDowell - Adoption Center Manager
Jen Erjavac - Foster Coordinator
Heather Parisi - Member at Large



Mama Bella, available for adoption

Cat Stats

Rescues / Surrenders

It's been a busy year! Through June, we've rescued 200 kitties! Our kitten season had a slow start, but it didn't take long to catch up. While we headed into the spring months with mostly adult cats, by May we had a resurgence of little ones—in May and June we took in 79 kittens!

Adoptions

So far this year, we've re-homed 146 cats and kittens, and our current foster population is 104.



Nebula
Available for adoption

Spay / Neuter

We are pleased that we have not only been able to spay and neuter all of the kitties that we are re-homing, but we've been able to facilitate the spay/neuter of over 90 owned cats as well! And, because of the great response of our supporters to our Sponsor A Spay/Neuter appeal and our Hike to Lower The Spike walk this spring, we are able to offer assistance to many more. So please, if you know someone who could use help in getting their cats fixed, have them call 262/605-0533 to learn more about the resources we have available to them.

Volunteers Needed

Can you lend a paw? It is the dedication of our volunteers at every level of our organization that truly makes Kindred Kitties what it is! Your time and effort is greatly appreciated and needed. We have many volunteer opportunities available including roles that directly involve cat care and those that don't. There's something for everyone. We are looking for those to help with administrative functions, assist with intake, fundraising, grant writing, event planning, marketing/web design, transport, maintenance/repair, and of course, we are always in need of loving homes that can foster a cat or kittens. Please check out our volunteer opportunities at <https://www.kindredkitties.org/get-involved/volunteer-information/> and complete an application today. You can make a difference in a cat's life while you make a difference in your own!

What's Happening?



July 2024



Hike to Lower the Spike 2024

The *Hike to Lower the Spike* Event was a success! We had a beautiful day on May 21st at the Bristol Woods Park and raised funds to support our spay/neuter programs.

Dr. Keen, from Harris Pet Hospital kicked off the hike with an informative talk about the importance of Spay/Neuter. A great group came out to participate and enjoy not only the hike itself but also, the delicious treats from the bake sale, the Cat's Glass merchandise and joined in the bingo fun and raffles!

We would like to thank the Events team and all the volunteers that helped to make this important event happen. We would also like to thank those local businesses who sponsored the hike:

American Place Casino, CARE Animal Hospital, Edward Jones by Dan Pascucci, Kirchen Family, Seibert's Landing, Sorensen Family, StudioNorth and Thinking Feeling Equestrian



Building Update



Plans for the adoption center at 3200 Sheridan Road in Kenosha are back on track. During the City Plan Commission meeting in June, complaints from a tenant and an employee in the building, led to a 30 day deferral.

On July 18th, the committee members all voted in favor of establishing the conditions of approval. By state law the city must publish the approval in the paper to give notice to the public that a new Conditional Use Permit has been approved. The final vote by the commission will be on August 22nd and then we can move forward with an occupancy permit.

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who attended the July meeting and to those that spoke on our behalf. We also greatly appreciate those who wrote to the mayor or alderpersons, letting them know Kindred Kitties is a valuable member of the community. Your show of support for Kindred Kitties was humbling and we are grateful for it.

While we await the August 22nd vote, the KK planning team is busy working on planning and designing the new adoption center and developing a timeline for our official move to 3200. Please stay tuned for the exciting next steps! And as always, thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events



July 2024



Enjoy great food,
raffles and fun
while supporting
Kindred Kitties

**Monday August 19th, 2024
& September 16th, 2024
6:00pm to 9:00pm**

9901 77th St., Pleasant Prairie, WI



**Saturday, September 21st
Hairball Hurl**



6501 Washington Ave. Mt Pleasant, WI

Join us for a bags tournament fundraiser,
merchandise table, and raffles!

The Cat's Glass

2 Day Sale Event!

Come out and find something special for yourself,
or the animal lovers in your life. It is never too
early to get a start on your holiday shopping!

Saturday & Sunday

October 5th and 6th

10:00am - 3:00pm (rain or shine)

1551 45th Avenue, Kenosha

If you haven't seen the beautiful hand-painted
glassware made by our talented volunteer, Mary
Kessenich, you have really missed out! Mary paints
cats (and dogs) on various types of glassware—wine
glasses, footed mugs, and coffee cups. She can even
paint custom images from photos. Not only that, **she
donates 100% of the proceeds to Kindred Kitties!**

In addition to her glassware,
Mary also makes amazing textile
items! She has pot holders,
microwave bowl/plate holders,
dish towels, and beautiful
wallets in cat and dog-patterned
fabrics. She also makes cat-
shaped pillows, and catnip cat
toys. New this year are trifold
wallets in cat and dog fabric.



Can't make the big sale? The Cat's Glass will also be at
the following area craft fairs:

November 2nd

Case High School Craft Fair, Racine

November 23rd

Shoreland High School Craft Fair, Kenosha

Did you know?



July 2024

Understanding Bonded Cats: The Unique Relationship Between Feline Companions

Cats are often known for their independent nature, but anyone who has observed them closely knows that they can also form deep, emotional bonds with other cats. These special connections, known as bonded pairs, play a crucial role in the lives of felines and can significantly impact their well-being. So, why do some cats need to be bonded, and what does it mean for their lives?

What Does it Mean for Cats to be Bonded?

When we talk about bonded cats, we're referring to a pair of cats that have formed a strong emotional attachment to each other. This bond goes beyond mere tolerance or cohabitation; it involves a level of companionship and comfort that is vital for their social and psychological health. Bonded cats typically engage in behaviors such as grooming each other, sleeping together, and even playing or exploring their environment as a duo. These actions not only strengthen their bond but also provide them with a sense of security and stability.

Why Some Cats Need to be Bonded

- 1. Social Animals:** Despite their independent reputation, cats are social creatures. In the wild, they live in colonies where social interactions are essential for survival. Domestic cats, while adapted to living with humans, still retain this social instinct. For some cats, having a companion fulfills their need for social interaction and companionship.
- 2. Previous Trauma or Anxiety:** Cats that have experienced trauma, such as abandonment or loss of a previous companion, may develop anxiety or stress-related behaviors when alone. A partner can provide comfort and reassurance, helping to alleviate these negative emotions.
- 3. Health Benefits:** Studies have shown that bonded cats exhibit lower stress levels and better overall health compared to solitary cats. Having a trusted companion reduces feelings of loneliness and boredom, which are common in single-cat households.
- 4. Behavioral Reasons:** Some cats may have specific behavioral traits that make them more suitable for living with a companion. For example, a highly energetic cat might benefit from having a playmate who can match their energy levels and engage in interactive play.
- 5. Prior Experience:** If cats have been together some or all of their lives, they are often considered bonded, being as they have been relying on each other for company for an extended amount of time.

The Importance of Bonded Pairs

For animal adoption centers and rescues, recognizing and preserving bonded pairs is crucial. When cats are surrendered or found as strays, separating them from their bonded partner can be emotionally distressing and detrimental to their well-being. It's often observed that bonded pairs that are adopted together adjust more quickly to their new homes and exhibit fewer behavioral issues.

Kindred Kitties Bonded Pairs

Here at Kindred Kitties, we currently have two bonded pairs who exude love for one another. **Ron and Chris** are bonded brothers from the same litter. They are very loving and are always near each other. You will find them grooming each other, sleeping next to or on top of one another, or gently wrestling around together. If one is near you, the other one will not be more than five feet away.

These two rely on each other for affection, cuddles and safety. We are unsure how they were raised prior to coming to kindred kitties, but you can tell that they feel much safer and more loved when they are together.

They are both very approachable, and love a good pet!



Angelica and Dax are not siblings but were adopted together when they were both kittens. Unfortunately their caregiver became ill and they came to Kindred Kitties this year. They are bonded because they have spent their lives together and clearly help each other adapt to their surroundings on the day to day. Though Dax is more

comfortable exploring, he will always come to check on Angelica and make sure she is doing okay! They are more shy, but together help each other get out of their comfort zone around new animals and people.



Bonded Pairs



July 2024

One of our wonderful friends submitted a story about her special bonded pair of kindred kitties. Gracie Sue and Stanley are from the same litter and joined her other two cats, Bob and Otis in their household in 2023. They all quickly became friends for life and absolutely love playing, eating and cuddling together. Here's Rachel's Story!

"I have always had a "Limit Rule" for many, MANY years! I always said 3, 3 was my kitty limit. Never in my years (I'm 51 now) have I broken the "Rule". Until this last December that is... It started out innocent enough, the same story as many others. The last of my previous trio had passed. I had already had 2 of the new trio in place from previous adoptions. One was from a friend, the other was a Kindred Kitties match for us. So, now I was on the hunt for a girl kitty as I really wanted to even out the testosterone in the house. I watched the postings daily until one little girl caught my eye.

I stalked her for a bit wondering if we were truly ready for a new baby. One day there was a post from Kindred kitties that they were going to have her at a "Meet n Greet" at Petco in Kenosha, well, I happened to be in the area and decided to at least go meet her and see if there was the connection I was looking for. At the time it seemed innocent enough...

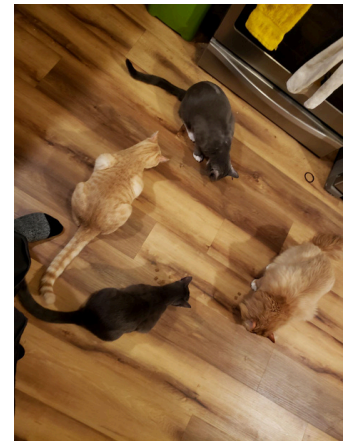
I met her and her 2 siblings that were with her. Although I was told she and her siblings were not bonded and that she would be awesome on her own with the 2 boys I had already, I was not convinced her cream colored brother would be ok without her! As I observed her "guarding" her brother in the carrier and laying across the top of him, I took a couple of pics to show my husband that



I had met her and wanted to adopt her. A few days had passed and I couldn't get her and more so, her brother out of my head. I read his story on the adoption site and reviewed the pictures I had taken. I also went over the conversation I had had with their foster Mom a few times. I was truly convinced HE needed her and I could not separate them!

I was very emotional at this time because of the "Rule" - never go over 3! Did I have enough time and energy for MORE THAN 3??! Would my husband put his foot down and (not that he could stop me, but I do respect him) accept 4??! What should I do?? I cried. Just the thought of that cream colored sweet, scared, shy little boy without his afraid of nothing sister to help him through life was devastating to think of...

My husband saw my tears and knew what I needed to hear. "Get them both" he said, "we will figure it out". I texted Kindred Kitties to see if he was still available. I had already put in the application for my little girl and it was accepted. I was so excited he was still available! I said "He's mine! They are both mine! Can I have them both!?! They said "Yes", and were as happy as I was to keep them together! Now we are a foursome and all is well! Not one regret. My sweet cream-colored shy boy is such a happy little lover and his outgoing gray sister is just getting everyone to love her all the time."



How to Support Bonded Cats

If you're considering adopting cats, especially if they are already bonded, it's important to understand their relationship and commit to keeping them together. Providing a stable environment with plenty of enrichment, such as toys, scratching posts, and perches, can enhance their quality of life and strengthen their bond. Bonded cats exemplify the depth of feline relationships and the importance of companionship in their lives. Whether they seek social interaction, comfort from past traumas, or simply thrive with a companion, these pairs demonstrate the benefits of respecting and nurturing their bonds. By understanding and supporting bonded cats, we contribute to their happiness and well-being, ensuring they live fulfilling lives as cherished companions.

Many Thanks!



July 2024

THANK YOU! Your support means everything to us --both your time and money! We make every effort to acknowledge all who contribute to Kindred Kitties in a variety of ways. If you were not mentioned below, please know that it is totally unintentional. Each of you makes a difference!

The following donations were received April thru June 2024.

Abdallah, Hassan
Agner, Kristin
Alec, Paula
Banks, Susan & Philip
Battilla, Stacy
Bender, Donna
Bero, Jennifer
Blackhawk Community Credit Union
Britt, Marie
Brnak, Cathy
Buencamino, Madeline
Callahan, Ryan
Carls, Kitty
Chenevert, Bonnie
Coffey, Mary-Gary
Collier, Claudette
Cox, Melissa
Culat Grasty, Kathy
Dabbs, Tish
Deaton, Craig & Jan
Emerick, Rachel
Glave, Kori Therese
Gragen, Teri
Graham, Christie
Grum, Katie
Hahne, Caitlin
Hancock, Jill
Harmeyer, Kathy
Heather, Shelly
Hotavis, Judith & Patrick
Howarth, James
Ide, Wren
Illich, Marge
J, Rachel
Jay, Sherry

John Kloss Foundation
Jurgens, Lisa
Kessenich, Mary
Kirby, Sherry
Kress, Ken
Kriehn, Jarlene
La Fogata
Langerman, Brenda
Marchuk, Jan
McDowell, Cathryn
McLain, Beth & Brian
Mierendorf, Lori
Moldanado, Damaris
Nielsen, Alexandra
Nielsen, Christina
Nye, Sydney
Price, Michelle
Richter, Ashley
Robedeau, Mark
Sarahi Maravilla
Savaglio, Linda
Schmidt, Linda
Schweitzer, Danielle
Serpe, Michelle
Shahbazian, Mary
Spaulding, Linda
Staack, Madelyn
Steele, Shannon
Stepp, Stephanie
Toff, Deb
Treloar, Allison
Tzakis, Jerrilynn
VanDahm, Tom & Lois
Vozel, Mary
Waukegan Animals Getting Saved
Widmar, Colleen
Woldt, Veronica
Woller, Michelle
Wollert, Karen
Yarbrough, John
Zman, Iris



Lula

Available for adoption



Hike to Lower the Spike Donors

Anderson, Larry & Marilyn
Cabili, Teodoro & Tamara
Earley, Judith
Gunter, Donald & Joy
Hammelev, Florence
Hauser, David
Heys, Ed & Bev
Ide, Wren
Johnson, Richard
Kessenich, Mary
Kirchen, Michael & Linda
Kula, Pamela
Kutis, Barbara
McClain, Anetra
McDowell, Cathryn
McKavis, Kathy
Mich, Brian
Morrison, Dawn
Parisi, Heather
Schaefer, Sheri
Seibert, Karen
Sorensen, Barb & Tim
Thomas, Diana
Wescott, Liz
Woller, Michelle

Hike to Lower the Spike Sponsors

American Place Casino
CARE Animal Hospital
Cat's Glass
Pascucci, Dan
Studio North
Thinking Feeling Equestrian

Arabella, Available for adoption



With Gratitude



July 2024

Employee Giving / Company Match

Abbott Labs

Anonymous, Elizabeth Anderson,
Debra Benson, Lorraine Mich,
Bradley Santeler, Clinton Schultz,
Steven Wendling

AbbVie

Anonymous, Lisa Baker,
Heather Edwards, Andrew Hicks,
Heidi Hocker, Marion Refici

Allstate Giving

Krystal Smuda

AT&T

Anonymous

BMO Financial Group

Theresa Kratochvil



Rafaella
Available for adoption

Costco Wholesale

Stephanie Brown

Discover Financial

Kathleen Anstrand

JCPenney

Jennifer Maguire

JPMorgan Chase

Melinda Miller

Molson Coors

Barbara Montenegro

Target

Anonymous

United Way of Lake County

Susan Scherer



Sponsorships

Adoption Center Kittens

by Stacy Krause

Mama Ethel

by Marie DeBock



Opal
Available for adoption



Collection Jars

Adoption Center
Pet Supplies Plus
RK News Hallmark

Employee Giving Programs

Many businesses allow employees to make donations to the non-profit organization of their choice through payroll, and some companies may even match those donations. The following area employers have Employee Giving Programs and some of our current donors use them to make a difference for us! If you are an employee of any of these companies, consider making a donation to Kindred Kitties through work. If your employer is not listed below, ask them about employee giving, and also if they match donations. Some companies are also known to match the donations of their retirees' charitable contributions; you may want to check into that as well.

Abbott Labs

AbbVie

Advocate Aurora

Allstate Insurance

AT&T

BMO Financial Group

CarMax

CNH Industrial

Costco Wholesale

Discover Financial

Hospira

IAC

JCPenney

Liberty Mutual

Microsoft Rewards

Morgan Stanley

New York Life

Pfizer

Takeda

Trustmark

UBS

United Health Care

United Way of Lake County

United Way of Metro

Chicago

Voya Financial

With Appreciation



July 2024

Honorariums

Charlotta Jonsson
by Barbara Arquilla

Gray Kitty
by Stephanie Coleman

Zoe
by Janice Craig-Rayat

Becky Haberkorn
by Deborah Cronin

Teddi
by Janet Hermann

Ducky's Medical Care
by Erin Krembs

Linnea Elrod
by Maxine Silvius

Meatball (Blossom)
by Allison Treloar



Daisy
Available for adoption

Memoriams

Stanley Harrod
by Amy Andersen

Wayne Haberkorn
by Deborah Cronin

Oliver Wendell
by Nancy Day

Wayne Haberkorn
by Amy Franz

Peter
by Peggy Good

Stan Lee
by Jenna Gospodarek

Aunt Eileen Haven
by Linda Graeper

Doug
by Janet Hermann

Lilly
by Erin Krembs

Peter
by Reona Krukenberg

Boomer
by Robin Milligan

Sue Moffett
by Patricia Pooch

Tornado "Torni"
by Israel Ramon

Olga Rodriguez
by Adam Rodriguez

Quanta
by Leigh Tivol

Sandra Bertelle
by Marie & Edward Tovo

William Jewel
Kathy Walker

Kitty Grace
Karen Wollert

Food, Supplies & Equipment

Anderson, Sharon
Anderson, Tim & Sue
Andry, Linda
Anonymous
Antony, Katie
Becker, Linda
Bolton, Zonytta
Callaghan, Jodi
Candace, Cassandra, Jacob
Champion, Anne
Clark, Stacey
Copeland, Wendy
Debbie, Rob
DeCesaro Sandra
DiPasquale-Peterson, Sue
Dooley & Associates

Edwards, Heather
Engdahl, Heather
Fleischman, Al & Melissa
Gage, Judith
Gidzinski, John
Grasty, Kathleen
Haack, Jesse & Mary
Hansen, Colleen
Herrem, Debra
Hoover, Stacey
Jankowski-Gruce, Debbie
Kastelic, Laura
Kessenich, Mary
Kessing, Anne
Kirchen, Linda
Klobuchar-Giles, Julie

Kreger, Bonnie
LaBadie, Chelsey
LeVan, Matthew
Logan, Judy & Larry
Lydia, Miranda, LouLou
Marchuk, Jan
Marquardt, Kari
Marx, Deanna
McCain, Patrick
McLain, Beth
Meade, Kathleen
Meyer, Kelly
Mitchell, James & Judy
Moore-Zigler, Erin
Mozart's Dad
Noffsinger, James

Oscar, Cassie
Page, Brandon
Paskewic, Kristin
Pontillo, Lori
Powell, Amelia
Proud, Christa
Radley, Tina
Rasch, Jake
Redell, Becky
Ring, Katelyn
Rivest, Jill & Joe
Scheffler, Linda
Schibler, Chelli
Schmit, Julie
Schoenke, Wendy
Schroeder, Carol

Shepler, Linda
Smuda, Krystal
Stanich, Mike
Stanley, Stacey
Stepp, Rob
Stepp, Stephanie
Sterba, Makayla
Strelitzer, Tami
Stuart & Haley
Taylor, Mary
Taylor, Sarah
Tibbits, Karrie
Toff, Deb
Ventura, Cheryl
Waler, McKenna
Wesmit, Judee
Zigler, Erin