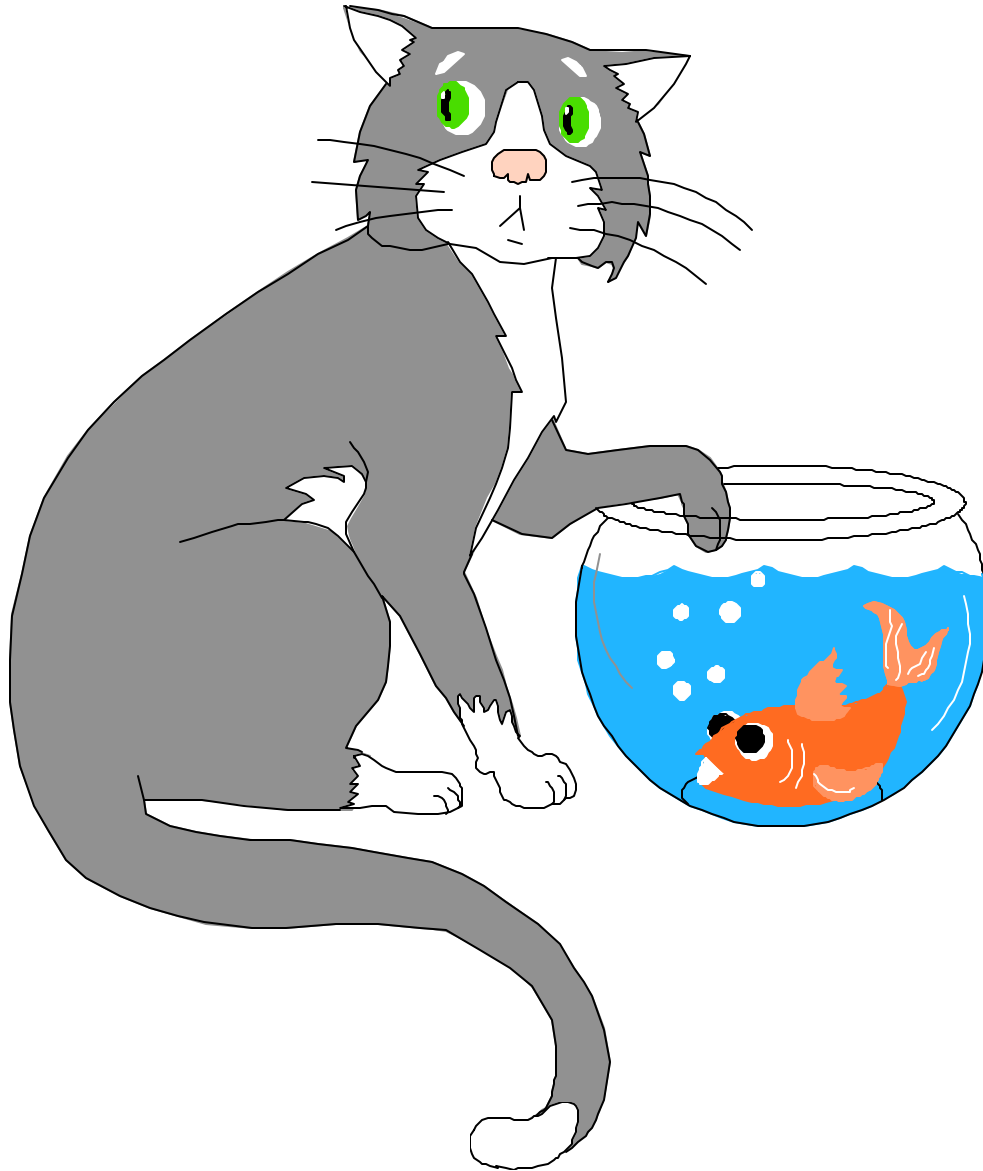


Fancy Cats Rescue Team 2005 Annual Report



A full color, downloadable PDF version of this report is available on our website: www.fancycats.org.
Special events can also be viewed on our website.

Annual Report

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2005 Annual Report/ The Scratching Post Volume 10, Issue 1 • Spring 2006

The Scratching Post is the biannual newsletter of the Fancy Cats Rescue Team. Issues are printed in February and September. Submission should be sent to Editor at P.O. Box 182, Herndon, VA 20172-0182, or by e-mail to info@fancycats.org.

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in August 1997 by Catherine McCullough-Awad and was incorporated in February 1999 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Fancy Cats Rescue Team is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. Most volunteers have full-time jobs or are students who donate their non-working hours to help save cats from needless euthanasia.

“Our Mission is to end needless euthanasia by having our cats spayed and neutered...to find suitable lifetime homes for our cats with loving adopters...to educate potential adopters on issues such as sterilization, declawing, and behavioral problems.”

A copy of the latest financial report and registration filed by Fancy Cats Rescue Team may be obtained by contacting the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209.

Donations to Fancy Cats Rescue Team are tax deductible. We are an approved United Way/CFC organization, United Way #8929. You can also donate online through our Web site, www.fancycats.org.

Letter from the President

What a year. That is how I will remember 2005. FCRT has faced many challenges and hardships over the years, and last year was no exception. With the remodeling of Fair Lakes PETS MART we saw our adoption numbers decline. We use to adopt out several cats during the week. Since the remodeling we saw that slow to nearly zero. Rescue work is very hard and stressful for everyone. We worry constantly about money and slow adoptions; hating to turn away shelters and knowing otherwise the cats will be euthanized. Some cats are in poor health or are ill: but the vets don't know why. The volunteers burn out and leave. This is life in animal rescue.

Unfortunately, we had new worries in that we had an all-time record in returns. We had 85 returns in 2005 that we thought had forever homes. All this becomes very depressing. We ask ourselves, Why? Why do we do this, why do we sacrifice our family life, our free time and sometimes our sanity? We have the answer when we look into every precious face that we save.

We need your help. We have so many plans. We have to have a facility to house our cats. We need additional money. We need more volunteers. We need vets that will help us in our work. And we need adopters who will make the commitment to keep our cats for their lifetime.

We have expanded our partnership with Petsmart to include their new Gainesville store and we are hoping to fill some of their other stores in the near future.

FCRT is a group that prides itself on trying to help everybody we can and we want to be able to continue doing this. We would like property or a building that would be suitable to use for quarantine; a place for the cats until they are ready to go out to the stores for adoption.

Despite everything and thanks to the devotion and care our group of Fancy Cats volunteers and foster homes provide, we adopted out 784 cats. We took in 912 cats that otherwise would have been euthanized. We had a lot of vet bills as always but we received a \$10,000 grant from PETS MART for an emergency medical fund, thanks to former volunteer Cynthia Kochendarfer. We are always struggling, but we are not about to give up. This group will not rest until every homeless animal has a forever home.

Fancy Cats Rescue Team 2005 Board of Directors:

Cathy Awad	Theresa Ronk	Mark Emlet
Kristen Tunstall	David O'Donnell	
Therese Guerette	Alison Sohmer	

2005 Board of Directors

Executive Director:	Mark Emlet
President, Asst. Director:	Cathy Awad
Vice President:	Kristen Tunstall
Secretary:	Theresa Ronk
Treasurer:	
Medical Director:	Cathy Awad
Foster/Kitten Coordinator:	Cathy Awad
Volunteer Coordinator:	Therese Guerette
Webmaster:	David O'Donnell

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From Death Row

Author Unknown

I am writing this letter to you from death row, the last day of my life. Yes, in just a few short hours, I will walk down that long corridor, to the gas chamber. No priest will escort me, giving me comfort or prayers for my soul. No family will visit me or even miss me when I am gone.

My "family" abandoned me long ago. As a matter of fact, I doubt anyone will ever give my death or me even a passing thought after today.

The saddest fact in this whole matter is that I am innocent. I have done no crime, yet today, I will die in the gas chamber. I know that others have said, "I am innocent", all the way to their deaths, but in my case, it is the truth.

Let me take you back through my life, tell you my story, please take the time to read it, then you decide for yourself whether or not I deserve to die.

I do not know my parents. I doubt that they even remember me. I do not think that my parents knew each other for very long. My birth was just a tragic beginning of a tormented life, conceived by strangers.

I know that my father was not around for my birth, and my mother did not stick around for very long after. I guess I cannot really blame my mother; she just "could not take care of me. As a youngster, I seemed to just "fall through the cracks" of the system.

I wandered around aimlessly looking for food and shelter anywhere I could find it. Every once in awhile, a kind person would try to help me out, but it was always temporary sympathy, and then they would be on their way, leaving me just alone as ever.

As fate would have it, I wound up pregnant. It was a hard pregnancy. I never seemed to get enough to eat, and having no permanent home, I was always exposed to the weather. I actually slept outside throughout my entire pregnancy.

No medical care was available to me, my first pregnancy produced two beautiful babies, but like my own mother, I could not care for them. I do not know what eventually became of my babies. As a matter of fact, I have given birth on three separate occasions and I do not know where any of my babies are now.

Shortly after my third pregnancy, my health was suffering badly. I did not know how to get medical attention and nobody offered to help me. I was very malnourished and extremely weak.

One particularly bad day, I was stumbling around the streets, very tired, very hungry, and very weak. I guess I just was not paying attention; I stepped out into the street. An oncoming car tried to stop but it was too late. I was knocked down and I felt a terrible pain in my leg. I was sure it was broken. The car kept going and once again I was in terrible trouble. I knew I had to get out of the street, so I dragged myself to the curb.

Once again, I needed medical treatment, but it seemed that once again, not one person was willing to help me.

Time marched on and I continued to struggle along. I was hanging out on the streets one night and I was picked up by a man. He seemed nice enough at first, he took me home with him, offered me food and shelter so I decided to hang around for a while.

I am not really sure what I did wrong, but after awhile he said he was tired of me and could not afford to have me around, and that I would have to go. We got into his car, drove out to an old deserted road and he put me out. He just left me there. I was alone again.

After several long days, I found my way to the nearest city. I thought surely I would find somebody to help me out of this "hell on earth" that I found myself living in.

Eventually, the police, who had seen me hanging out on the streets for several days picked me up and took me to this place for the homeless. I have been here about a week and nobody has told me what wrong I have committed.

I sleep, eat, and relieve myself in my little cell. The smell is horrible and it is so very noisy here. All the other prisoners cry and call out endlessly. It seems that I am being punished for simply being born. How can this happen in such a "civilized" world?

So, now that you have read my story, what do you think? Do you think that I must be violent, that maybe I am a bank robber, or drug dealer, or maybe even a murderer?

Whatever you think, do not feel sorry for me... Maybe I will find the peace in death, that I have never found in life.

By the way, I am not a bank robber, drug dealer, or murderer. I am not even human...I am a homeless pet.

Holiday Fundraising

Fancy Cats is grateful to PETSMART for two holiday fundraisers, Santa Paws and the Wish Tree Program. Santa Paws allows owners to have a picture of their pet paying a visit to Santa Claus. We raised \$1,530 dollars this year.

The other program is the Wish Tree Program where customers can make \$1, \$5, and \$10 donations to the animal care group of choice. During the period from November 1 through December 26, customer generosity allowed Fancy Cats to receive approximately \$3,050 from PETSMART Charities

Thanks to everyone for helping raise these funds.

In 2005, Fancy Cats adopted out over

780

cats and kittens. Thank you, adoptive families, foster homes, and our volunteers.

Roster of Cats Adopted in 2005

Dear adopters, thank you from the bottom of our fuzzy hearts for providing us with new loving homes. Listed below are all the cats adopted during calendar year 2005. To save space, only unique names are listed.

Aaron	Bo	Citrus	Emily	James	Lily Langtree
Abby	Bobbi	Claire	Emma	Jasmine	Linda
Adam	Bobbie	Clarence	Emmy	Jasper	Lindberg
Aggie	Bonnie	Clawdia Shifurr	Ernie	Jean Claude	Linus
Aimee	Bonnie Boo	Cleo	Ethel	Jeeves	Little Bit
Ajax	Bootsie	Cloe McMouser	Fah	Jello	Little Rascal
Albert	Bosco	Cloud	Fancy	Jemma	Little Tiger
Alexi	Brad Pitpurr	Clyde	Fatima	Jennie	Livingston
Alley McFurrson	Brutus	Coco	Fay	Jenny	Logan
Amelia	Buba	Coky	Felicia	Jeremy	Lola
Amy	Bubba Bear	Cole	Felix	Jerry	Lolita
Andrea	Buddie	Connie	Figgy	Jessica	Loretta
Andy	Buddy	Cookie	Figlio	Jessie	Lovey
Angel	Buffy	Corey	Firestone	Jessyka	Lucky
Angelina	Bugger	Couscous	Fluffers	Jewel	Lucky Girl
Angora	Bunny	Cracker	Fluffy	Jewels	Lucy
Annie	Burt	Creams	Frankie	Jiles Pawsworth	Luke
Annisette	Butch	Cricket	Freckles	Jody	Luke-o
Apollo	Butterscotch	Crypto	Freud	Joey	Lulu
Apple	Buttons	Cuddles	Fritter	John	Luna
April	Buzz	Cuddles Cat	Funnyfeet	Johnny	Mac
Ariel	Caleb	Cupcake	Fuzzy	Joleen	Macbeth
Artemus	Cali	Curly	Galadriel	Jorge	Macey
Arwen	Calvin	Daisy	Gary	Josie	Macy
Asher	candice	Dale	Gatsby	Judy	Maddie
Ashley	Cannoli	Damon	Genghis Khan	Juliet	Maddy
Athena	Caramel	Danke	George	Julius	Madison
Aurora	Carina	Danny	Georgette	Justine	Maggie
Autumn	Carrie	Dante	Georgia	Kali	Magnum
Axel	Carter	Darby	Georgie	Karmel	Maisie
Babette	Casey	Dartagnan	Gidget	Karamel	Mallory
Baby	Casino	Darth	Ginger	Katmandu	Mandy
Baby Girl	Casper	Davy Crockett	Ginny	Kelley	Mango
Bailey	Cassie	Deandra	Giselle	Kelli	Marco Polo
Baja	Catalina	Delilah	Gizmo	Kia	Marcy
Barbara	Caty LePuss	Desiree	Goldilocks	Kiki	Mario
Barbie	Celeste	Destiney	Goliath	Kit Kat	Marmalade
Barkley	Celia	Destiny	Grace	Kitty	Marty
Bary	Chacha	Deuce	Gracie	Kiwi	Mary
Basil	Chamonix	Dewey	Greta	Kobe	Mason
Bastet	Charbon	Diana	Gretchen	Koon	Mathilda
Baxter	Charlene	Doc	Haley	Kov	Max
Bear	Charles	Dolly	Hamlet	Kumquat	Maxx
Beatrice	Charlie	Domingo	Hank	Kyle	McGregor
Beau	Charteaux	Dominic	Harley	Lacey	Meeko
Beautiful	Chase	Domino	Harris	Lacy	Meenie
Becky	Chelsea	Doodle	Harry	Lady	Megan
Belle	Chelsie	Doodles	Harvey	Lara	Meggie
Ben	Chessie	Doogie	Haven	Larry	Melanie
Benedick	Chester	Dorian	Henry	Lavendar	Melissa
Benjamin	Cheyenne	Dory	Hickory	Laverne	Melody
Bert	ChimChim	Ducat	Hobbitt	Lawrence	Merci
Betty	China	Dusty	Hogan	Leah	Mercutio
Betty Jo	Chip	Ebony	Honey	Leia	Merlin
Bianca	Chloe	Eden	Hot Rod	Lenny	Mia
Binky	Christy	Edward	Inky Dink	Leta	Mickey
Binx	Cinder	Elizabeth	Ivory	Lexus	Midnight
Biscuit	Cinderella	Ellen Terry	Jack	Lightening	Millicent
Blackie	Cindy	Elsa	Jacob	Lily	Milo

Milton	Norbird	Prince	Sara	Spot	Tiny
Minnie	Oberon	Princess	Sarah	Star	Tipper
Mirabelle	Oliver	Puck	Sasha	Stella	Tippy
Mirabi	Olivia	Puffy	Sassy	Stephanie	Toes
Miranda	Ollie	Pumpkin	Satine	Storm	Toki
Mischief	Onyx	Rabies	Scamp	Stripes	Tom
Misha	Opey	Rachel	Scooby	Stripey	Tom Cat
Misty	Orangina	Racy	Scooter	Styz	Tommy Lee
Mitzi	Oreo	Rags	Scotty	Sugar	Tony the Tiger
Moe	Orville	Rain	Scout	Suni	Tootie
Molly	Oscar	Raj	Scribble	Sunny	Tripod
Momo	Oscar Ox	Ralphie	Shadow	Sunshine	Trish
Monique	P.J.	Rascal	Shannon	Susie	Trixie
Monkey	Pansy	Ray	Sheila	Suzie	Trouble
Monty Python	Pasha	Rebecca	Shelby	Suzy	Tucker
Mooshie	Patches	Rebel	Sherbert	Sweetie	Tula
Mopsy	Patty	Redford	Sherman	Sweetness	Tulley
Morris	Paws	Reggie	Shirley	Sweetpea	Tully
Mortimer	Peaches	Rex	Sidney	Sylvester	Turk
Morton	Pearl	Ricky	Silver	Sylvia	Tuttles
Mosby	Peekaboo	Riley	Simba	Tab	Tux
Mouse	PeeWee	Ringo	Simbad	Tabbatha	Twilight
Mr. Cat	Pegasus	Rita	Simon	Tabitha	Tye
Mr. Fat	Penelope	Roadrunner	Simone	Tack	Tyler
Mr. Lacy	Pepe LePurr	Rocco	Skeeter	Taisha	Vader
Mr. Tubbs	Pepper	Romeo	Skipper	Tango	Squeakers
Muffin	Percy	Roscoe	Skittles	Tansy	Valentino
Muffy	Perry	Rose	Sleeping Beauty	Tapioca	Victoria
Mustard	Peter Pan	Rosie	Slinky	Tasha	Violet
My Girl	Petey	Roxbury	Smiley	Tazz	Weebles
Mya	Petra	Roxi	Smitty	Ted	Wendy
Nadia	Petunia	Roxy	Smokey	Teddy	Wesley
Nala	Phantom	Rudy	Snowball	Teddy Bear	Whispy
Nappy	Phoenix	Runner	Snowbell	Teeter	widget
Natasha	Pinkey	Rusty	Snowflake	Tess	Wilbur
Necole	Pinky	Ryan	Snowie	Tessa	William
Nefret	Piper	Sabrina	Snowshoes	Theodore	Willy
Nelson	Polly	Sally	Sonya	Tiara	Yoda
Nero	Ponch	Sam	Sooty	Tidbit	Yvette
Nicholas	Pooh Bear	Samantha	Spanky	Tiger	Zeze
Nico	Popper Pussington	Sambuca	Spasibo	Tigger	Zico
Nicolas	Poppy	Sammie	Spice	Tilda	Zorro
Nikki	Porter	Sammy	Spike	Timothy	Zsa Zsa
Noelle	Portia	Samson	Spock	Timothy Micheal	
Nana	Precious	Sandy	Spokey	Tinky	

Helping the Shelter Cats

There are countless rural shelters with vast amounts of wonderful animals but too few homes. These shelters have heard all the excuses—"grandkids are allergic", "moving", "can no longer take care"; but it all boils down to the same sad fact: innocent animals whose odds of finding a new home are slim, largely because there is not a lot of traffic in these out of the way shelters. Fort unately, shelters have begun to recognize that by forming a partnership with rescue groups, they are able to give many cats and dogs second chances!

Fancy Cats Rescue Team has reached out to assist shelters in West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey as well as continuing to support shelters in the metropolitan DC area. In 2005, Fancy Cats rescued 32 cats and kittens from the SPCA in Georgetown, Delaware. Through the persistent effort of one of our volunteers, concerned about the high euthanasia rate of highly adoptable cats and kittens due to too few homes in southern Delaware, many were transported to Fancy Cats. Often, this required hospital visits for cats who were suffering from serious upper respiratory illness, and making sure that everyone was spayed or neutered, and up-to-date on vaccinations before being put up for adoption.

There are numerous heartwarming stories about cats that have found their way thanks to Fancy Cats. Peekaboo, a stunning tortie, and Lovey, a petite black and white tuxedo, languished at the SPCA at the height of kitten season. Although sweet, friendly cats, they went unnoticed—an unfortunate fact when it comes to adult cats. Within a couple of weeks of coming to Fancy Cats and being shown in a

new venue, they both found great homes! Burt, an older declawed orange tabby, was deposited at the SPCA when his owner died. This poor boy was grieving for the loss of his beloved owner, his home, and got sick at the noisy, crowded shelter. He required several days of hospitalization at a Fancy Cats vet before he became his old self again. He regained his appetite and his sweet nature once again blossomed. Jennifer Simonson fell in love with him at the Fair Lakes PETSMART weekend adoption and he is thriving in his new home.

As an all-volunteer organization, Fancy Cats Rescue Team relies on your support to continue to help these cats. Any amount you can give will go a long way to help. Your contributions will go directly to pay for the vet care and daily maintenance of these very deserving cats until loving, forever homes can be found. Your contributions are tax-deductible. Please keep in mind, if you are a Federal employee, to indicate Fancy Cats as your charity of choice (CFC # 8929) during the Combined Federal Campaign.

Kudos for Fancy Cats

I am very pleased to announce to you that the Animal Services Division of Fairfax County awarded Fancy Cats Rescue Team the Outstanding Shelter Partner for 2005. This was the first year of this awards inception. This award helps certify that we live by our mission statement. Last year we adopted out more cats and took in more cats than any other group in Northern Virginia making us the largest cat group in adoptions. It is gratifying that our county government has recognized our hard work.

We were also nominated by the Animal Services Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments for Volunteer Team of 2005. The award winner was announced on March 3rd, 2006 and we received Honorable Mention. This nomination is a great honor. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication that you have shown. I am happy that others are recognizing what I already know. You are an outstanding group of volunteers and I am privileged to be part of your team.

Thank you all so much,
Cathy Awad
President
Fancy Cats Rescue Team

2005 Income/Expense

Income

Adoption Fees	62,940.00
Contributions	81,216.00
Miscellaneous	1,024.00
Total Income	145,180.00

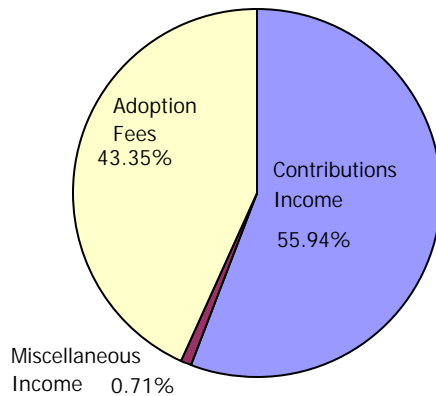
Expense

Bank Fees	43.00
Insurance	1,412.00
Licenses and Permits	200.00
Legal and Professional	500.00
Advertising	907.00
Office Supplies	1,551.00
Postage	343.00
Printing and Reproduction	1,309.00
Other Supplies	862.00
Medicine & Vaccines	6,340.00
Veterinarian Payments	134,493.00
Cat food and Cat supplies	15,585.00
Utilities	95.00
Telephone	1,232.00
Total Expenses	164,872.00

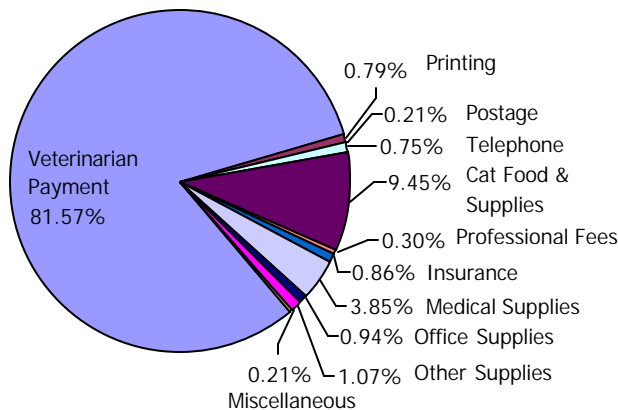
Net Ordinary Income -19,692.00

Net Income	-19,692.00
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2005 Income



2005 Expenses



Fancy Cats Rescue Team Pilot Sponsorship Program

Virginia and Bootsie are two wonderful cats that are part of our pilot sponsorship program. These two cats were brought to us when the owner had a baby who developed allergies. Since they have been with us, both have had illnesses that were quite costly to treat and which appear that they will soon be resolved. As their sponsor, you can help us to provide medical care for these wonderful animals, without having to make the deeper commitment of adopting. Ideally, we will find a permanent safe haven for them, but for now, it is important that we cover the medical care they need right now.

Virginia is a female, short-haired, brown tabby and Bootsie is a male, long-haired, black and white, tuxedo cat. They are both 12 years old and need to be adopted together because they are pair-bonded and love each other deeply. Bootsie and Virginia have been in our care since August, 2005, and are currently being fostered by a wonderful, caring family to ease the stress of being in a cage, provide them with some much-needed love and companionship, and to keep them under a higher level of observation to watch for signs of reoccurring illnesses.

Bootsie has had to have surgery to remove bladder stones, and he has had a urinary infection, diarrhea, and an ulcerated cornea; which are all resolved.

Virginia had a persistent kidney infection, which is also much better. Both cats may need to be put on a special diet. Their original owner declawed both cats, so they will need to be indoor-only cats.

Virginia has really come around. She will try to bat at you if she doesn't want to be picked up, but she is usually very affectionate, loves to cuddle in arms, purrs, and meows with a soft, sweet voice. She usually doesn't get along with the other cats in the house (except Bootsie), but she's starting to get better around them now. Virginia is nervous about the dog, so we're recommending that she go to a quiet home where there are no children younger than six years old and no dogs.



Bootsie is less cuddly, but his foster mom explains that it's probably more because he's afraid of hurting his surgical incision, and that when he heals up a bit more, he may enjoy more affection. Bootsie is very good with other cats and kids, and is a friendly cat.

Any cat that has been declawed may develop a problem with biting to compensate for not having a normal defense system. These cats may nip at someone if they feel threatened.



With your permission, we will include you in a list of people who make these special gifts and publish the list on our website at <http://www.fancycats.org>. If you wish to sponsor a specific cat, please let us know.

Sponsorship levels:	
Special Friend	\$100
Caring Companion	\$250
Advocate	\$500
Guardian Angel	\$1,000

Ask Aggy



Fancy Cats' most famous alumnus has her own kitty advice column! You can find other *Ask Aggy* columns on our Web site, as well as directions to contact Aggy with your cat care question.

Dear Aggy,

I am sad. My cat brother Bubba just went to the big kitty condo in the sky and I'm rather lonely. I am enjoying having my human all to myself but I might want another friend. How will I know if I want another cat sharing my digs?

Your Pal,
Home A. Lonely

Although cats have a reputation for being solitary animals, there is a fair amount of evidence that this may not be the case. Even cats that live in the wild without human interaction tend to form colonies. Where some cats will be observed spending most of the time on their own, others can be observed regularly interacting with others. Still, there are those that want nothing to do with a colony or their own kind. So how do we know when a cat needs a buddy?

Fancy Cats volunteers have a wide variety of experience with cat personalities and are happy to help you with your selection of a new family member. Cats have so many varied personalities and this is what makes them wonderful. We will do our best to find the right cat for your household.

First, you need to decide if you're ready for another kitty. Remember, you'll need to share your attentions with your new family member. They will need you to play with them, cuddle them and groom them from time to time. There will be vet visits too and if you choose a kitty with special needs, you'll need to take their unique situation into consideration, and figure how you'll arrange your schedule to accommodate your kitties' needs. However, two cats are usually not double the trouble in the long run. Aggy highly recommends sharing your love with several wonderful felines.

Once you're ready for another companion there are a few traits that may require closer consideration. This doesn't mean that you can't add a second kitty, but you may want to talk to your veterinarian or one of our volunteers before proceeding.

1. Is your kitty aggressive or pushy? Does she get feisty when you remove her from the counter or your favorite chair?

Does she bite you when you pet her or threaten people when they are in "her" space? This kitty may have a hard time sharing her space or your attentions with another kitty.

2. Does your kitty seem fearful in social situations? Does he startle easily and try to hide? Does he run away from newcomers or spend all his time under the bed when anyone new is in your home? This type kitty may trigger the chase/flee reaction, where the new cat may be enticed to chase the existing kitty and may cause the existing kitty to retreat further into his shell.
3. Does the kitty act offensively or defensively when you try to pet her, lift her, or hold her? She may act aggressively with a new kitty too.

Apply the same rules to the new cat. Does the new cat seem skittish and introverted? Does he appear rather aggressive and bossy? You want everyone comfortable in the new situation, because frankly, we're hoping you'll all have a happy, forever home together. In all three cases above we would probably recommend a laid back, fearless kitty. But, the bottom line is the kitties need to like each other. Age and activity level compatibility should be considered too.

It is extremely important to introduce your kitties slowly. Keep the newcomer in a spare room or bathroom and let the kitties smell and hear each other through the door. Switch scents by switching their bedding or rubbing both kitties around the jowl area with a towel or cloth and let each kitty smell the other's scent. Make it a positive experience by petting the kitty or feed him a treat while he's sniffing out the new scent. After a few days try putting each kitty in a carrier and let them face each other. Keep them a foot or so apart. Let the new kitty roam around in your house and put your existing kitty in the new kitties' confinement room. If all is going well you can start letting the kitties get together for a few minutes each day. If it gets ugly, separate them. You always want to be present when the kitties are together until you are comfortable with the relationship. Slow is the key. Your time investment will pay off in the long run. You'll get double the love, double the pleasure, and twice the rewards of having two great friends in your life.

Dear Aggy,

My owner wants to know if fighting is normal for a cat because I have been known to swing a punch or two from time to time. You know how it is, sometimes you just gotta get it out of your system.

Rocky

Rocky, your behavior is not unusual. We all have our moments. Yes, even I have taken a swipe or two at my cat buds, most of the time when someone is encroaching on my food bowl. Here are some tips for handling these little indiscretions.

What your human should do and what they shouldn't do during a cat fight:

1. Try to remain calm and don't scream at the cats. Screaming cat just add to the cat's aggravation level.
2. Try squirting the kitties with water from a squirt bottle. Don't get too close when you do this.

3. Do not use your hands to break up the fight. Even the sweetest of kitties can experience a moment of misplaced aggression and bite through a finger. Make sure kitty is calmed down before handling. This calming period can take from a few minutes up to a few days so be alert.
4. Try using a physical barrier to break up the fight – a piece of very strong cardboard or plywood for instance. Make sure you are not in line with a possible attack though.
5. Punishing a cat for fighting does not work. Kitties don't understand why they are being punished and it may cause further aggressive behavior.

Most common causes of cat fights in multi-cat households are:

1. Territorial issues: Sometimes cats don't want, at least initially, a new kitty in the home. They don't want to share their humans or their things with another cat. We can not stress enough how important it is to take it slowly when introducing a new member to your cat family. Remember, scent is of particular importance here. A cat can even get upset when his long time house pal has gone to the vets and returns with all sorts of strange smells on him. Any way you can make the scent of the other cat a positive experience for your stay at home cat is going to help you get the two together.

Another form of cat fight occurs when your kitties spot a cat outside. Often your kitties will turn on each other in misplaced aggression resulting from the inability to reach the outside cat. You know those darn outside cats like to taunt us and tell us it's better out there, but Aggy says "horsefeathers", I've got it good indoors – no fleas, no ticks, no cold feet, and lots of chow!

2. Defense of resources: Yes, I hate to admit, but I, Aggy, had issues with this earlier in life. I used to block the litterbox so that my foster home's kitties could not use it. I'm ashamed about it but the good thing is I don't do it any more. And I don't fight with anyone anymore. So, be patient, things get better!
3. Defense of personal space: Kitties can be pretty resourceful when they feel a threat to their personal space. They will set the rules of engagement with a new cat, the hierarchy so to speak with a new intruder. Some examples of this include the resident kitty ignoring or snubbing the new cat, cutting them off at the litterbox or from his human, growling and smacking the newcomer if she gets near his kitty bed, or choosing when and where play will occur.
4. Overly aggressive play: Think about this when you think about adopting a kitten with your older cat. People get upset with us all the time for dissuading them from

adopting a single kitten to be a housemate for their 9 year old kitty. Most kittens play hard, most older cats don't. Doesn't seem like a good situation for either one. We find the older cat ends up lashing out at the kitten and it can get ugly.

Some things you can do to calm the savage beast in your cat:

1. Check for medical issues: When the relationship changes between two cats who have known each other and liked each other, be suspicious of a medical problem. A cat experiencing pain or other difficulties may find it hard to deal with anything else in his life.
2. Scent sense: You may need to separate your kitties for a while if they are not getting along. During this time we recommend the same steps as listed above when introducing a new cat member to the family (i.e., switching scents, etc.)
3. Equal treatment: For a while it may be necessary to set up a set of food bowls, water bowls and litterboxes in two separate areas. Make sure you pay equal amounts of attention to both kitties during this period. Give them as much human time as possible and it will pay off.
4. Escape routes: Make sure your kitty can escape to another room or other part of your home if he needs to. Sometimes space can do wonders.
5. Go up, up, and away: A cat tree to the rescue! Or maybe two trees and a window perch or two.
6. Separate litter boxes: Cats are fastidious so a personal litter box makes sense. Sure they may share after a while, but give your kitties the option. Plus, having multiple litter boxes often deters other issues from occurring.
7. Pheromones: Feliway is a commercial product that comes as a spray or plug in and contains kitty pheromones. Many of our volunteers and adopters have used this and had great success as it provides kitty with a natural calming sensation.
8. Medication: There are medications that the vet can give you to calm aggressive behavior or help ease a skittish kitty. These are not usually needed for life time use and can be effective, but this should be considered as a last resort. All medications can have side effects.

Fights occur and are not necessarily a bad thing. It is rare that two cats meeting for the first time won't fight, but continued aggravated assault can become a problem. Again, take it slowly. You are building a lifelong relationship between two wonderful and deserving little beings. Isn't it worth taking a little more time to make it work?

Remembering B.J.

It was a spring morning in 1996 when B.J. and I first met. I fed the wildlife and the cats in the neighborhood. I had 5 cats of my own that were indoor/outdoor I could not adopt out. I also had others in the house. I saw B. J. going to the feeder and tried to pet him. He ran away. Every time I saw him after that I would

call him. At times the names weren't nice since he had started marking my porch and lawn furniture. In the evening when I put wet food out I would call his name and he would come running from the sewer. Around the same time I started seeing B.J. I also started feeding 2 other feral. These two would come and eat but would not come anywhere near me. They also slept in the

cat beds on the porch. I trapped them and fixed them; but B.J. would not go near the traps. After a few months those two started to lose weight and one had sores around his head and the other when he did not run when I opened the door I knew there was a problem. This time when I trapped them my vet said to test them for Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency syndrome (FELV/FIV).

They were both positive for FIV and the vet thought they probably had cancer. She suggested that I put them to sleep. And I complied. I felt very bad for these two boys. Victims of circumstances they had no control of. I felt responsible for them. I felt they were mine. Though I could not touch them I really cared about them and worried when they were not home.

I decided to try harder to trap B.J. and have him fixed. I had all 5 of my cats tested for FIV and they were all negative. He still would not go near the traps. Even my own cats went in the traps but not this cat. So I gave up again. And went on with my very busy life. He started to hang around more and would now sleep on the porch. He was always home at dinnertime for his wet food and would cry that high-pitched cry of his.



About 3 months later my daughter Jennifer and I were feeding wet food and B.J. walked right up to Jennifer. We scooped him up and put him in the carrier and took him right to our vet. That was early 1997. The vet said he seemed very healthy, weighed 12 lbs., was about years old and was FIV+. Since he was an unaltered male I felt he probably fought with the others. My cats were all fixed.

The vet encouraged me to put him to sleep. There was no way I could do that. I brought him home and slowly integrated him with my own cats. I had researched FIV and found that it was most commonly transmitted through deep bite wounds. I never had a doubt that it would work. He was clearly not aggressive. He was fine with them after awhile.

My worry was that since I rescued cats and fostered them that he would catch something, get sick and die. Much to my surprise he was never sick a day in his life until 7 years later. In the summer of 2004 I noticed he was losing weight. I thought maybe it was because he was getting old and decided when I had time to get some blood work done. I hated to take him to the vet. He always cried so much. He was such a baby.

On September 10th he started to vomit and have diarrhea. I took him to the vet the next day and the diagnosis was pancreatitis. The gave me medication but it did not work. I had him hospitalized. I knew he hated that; but I was afraid. That was September 23rd. I asked the vet to do whatever he needed to do to make him well. I had a feeling it was cancer; but the vet did not think so. He never improved and deteriorated rapidly.

On the 29th of September I decided to have him put to sleep. I called the vet and said I would be there after work to be with him. He told me that he was picking up the phone to call me when I called and that B.J. was dying. He had found a mass in his chest. I needed to come sooner. By the time I was able to find someone to stay with my daycare children and get to the vet my boy was already gone. I went into the room and cried and

held him and told him how much I loved him. I have had many FIV + foster cats since My B.J.

My little girl Tia is FIV+ and now about 9 years old. I would never pass up a cat because they were FIV+. Chances are they will live a normal healthy life. Vets now know that FIV is passed through deep bite wound during fighting or mating. Unaltered males most commonly become infected during catfights. There are many articles now that suggest it is okay to house these cats with negative cats if they will not fight. B.J. lived with my cats for 7 years and no one has become FIV+. My cats loved him. It is not the same around here without him. He taught me a very valuable lesson and is the reason I have always helped place FIV+ cats. If it had not been for him, lots of cats we have placed with FIV would have been euthanized. He is a hero. Some vets still have the opinion that these cats should be euthanized. They believe they will die anyway.



Yes they will. We all will some day.

FCRT FIV + CATS AVAILABLE

Please consult your veterinarian before adopting any cat. FIV is not transmissible from cats to people or other species.

Olivia, dsh, gray/black tabby female, 2 years old, very sweet and playful. Likes other cats. Okay with older kids. Loves to be petted, play and eat wet food and treats. She is afraid of sudden movements. Very healthy



Greenwood, dsh, white male 1 year, and full of love. He can't get enough attention. He likes other cats and is fine with kids. He was given to FCRT by a Delaware vet who was horrified when a client brought him in to be neutered, found out he was positive and told this vet to euthanize him. The vet convinced her to give him the cat. He started seeking out rescues to help Greenwood.



Smoke, dsh gray tabby neutered male, 5yrs. Old. He is a big cuddly teddy bear who follows you everywhere. He likes to be with you. He likes to have his nose rubbed, loves catnip and likes his girlfriend Joy. Although he gets along with the other cats he is with, he probably would be best by himself or with Joy. They play and sleep together. He does not like dogs.



2005 Fancy Cats Rescue Team Donor List

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals and organizations (listed below) that generously donated money to support our rescue efforts during 2005. A very special thank you goes to all of the people who donated goods and services and to the vets who have provided services to keep our cats healthy. We could not fulfill our goals without you!

Americas Charities	Janet Eggers	James & Diana Mullen
Coalition To Improve Animal Control	Cathleen Einstein	Madan & Gabrielle Nanda
Dewey Animals, Inc.	Richard Ensor	Robyn B. Neal
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Paul & Anna Dickens	Simone Metz	Sandra Zuras
Martin Dunning	Heather Miller	
Sandra Dyson	Kim Moore	

A Home for Rockford

Rockford is very special to me. He was trapped in Junior, a small community near by; a gentleman claimed he was causing problems with his mothers cats and they believed he was feral and was eating out of their trash cans.

When he came to me he was rough and very frightened. Within a few days he was asking for attention, slowly he warmed up to me and now he has turned out to be one of the most affectionate cats we have. He is an older gentleman but with a wonderful personality and very well mannered.

He loves to be rubbed, held and snuggled. He will play with his toys on occasion but prefers to be loved verses playing. His tail is only about 3/4 of the length it should be, how this happened I am not sure. He has turned out to be a lovely cat that would make anyone a wonderful companion. Any type of love, warmth and kindness he receives means the world to him. I do not think he had much of a life before he found us. I believe he deserves the best and it would mean the world to me to see him have it.



Thank you, from the both of us!

Donna and Rockford

Fancy Cats Rescue Team
A copy of the latest financial report and registration filed by Fancy Cats Rescue Team may be obtained by contacting:

State Division of Consumer Affairs
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23209

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Please make checks payable to Fancy Cats Rescue team and mail it to us at:

Fancy Cats Rescue Team
P.O. Box 182
Herndon, VA 20172-0182

We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization; **your contributions are tax deductible!**

YES! I want to contribute to Fancy Cats Rescue Team!

Nearly 100% of your donation goes toward the care of rescued animals.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization; your contribution is tax deductible!



**Each year, we spend a considerable amount of money in our spay and neutering of cats, as well as caring for some of the more serious medical conditions that we inherit from shelter-bound or abandoned cats. Fancy Cats regularly has cats in long-term foster care with FIV, FeLV, diabetes, and emotional problems. Please help us keep these cats healthy and safe. Send your donation made out to:*

Fancy Cats Rescue Team
P.O. Box 182
Herndon, VA 20172-0182

Or donate via Paypal, iGive, or Helping.org on our Web site: www.fancycats.org.

Did you know...

- \$10 feeds one cat for one month
- \$20 pays for insulin for one month for a diabetic cat
- \$25 pays for one male cat to be neutered
- \$30 pays for one month of latex gloves to clean the cat cages sanitarilly
- \$50 pays for one female cat to be spayed
- \$75 pays for medicine to deworm 40 kittens
- \$100 pays for 5 cats to be tested for FeLV/FIV
- \$150 pays for an elderly cat to get a dental exam
- \$250 buys one quarantine cage
- \$500 buys 20 cats enough litter for six months
- \$1000 provides 100 cats with food for one month

In addition to our website (www.fancycats.org), you can see many of our cats at the Petfinder Web site: www.petfinder.org/shelters/va145.html.

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