



Fancy Cats Rescue Team | Annual Report

Our Mission

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in August 1997. Our mission is to reduce euthanasia by having our cats spayed and neutered; to find suitable lifetime homes for our cats; and to educate the public on sterilization, declawing and behavioral issues. Since our inception we have found homes for approximately 10,000 cats in the National Capital area.

Fancy Cats provides a safety net for cats that have been abandoned. We rescue cats on death row at local shelters and assist other rescue groups and government personnel in emergency situations.

We take owner released cats as space permits with all medical work done (including sterilization, FeLV/FIV test, rabies and distemper shots that are current). We make room for strays as space permits.

WHAT FANCY CATS DOES BEST

Josie and the Pussy Cats

by JACQUELINE BILOWUS

JOSIE AND HER FIVE (PUSSY CAT) babies arrived into Fancy Cats' sheltering arms hours before they were scheduled for euthanasia. She had been abandoned with her ten-day-old kittens at an area shelter with two other cats. When she arrived at her foster home, her eyes immediately locked onto her new mom with a look of trust and relief. Now that she found a safe place to call her own, her tense body relaxed and she transformed into a proud momma.

Her foster mom, like Josie, was also brand new to Fancy Cats. She had decided to take in Josie because her own cats of 11 and 19 1/2 years had both tragically died the year before due to

melamine contamination in their food from Chinese ingredients. In helping Josie and her boys, her foster mom has received much needed healing.

Josie is a beautiful silver tuxedo with expressive green eyes. When her boys were little, these eyes would convey to her foster mom when she needed help carrying them around. Josie's mouth reveals her former owner's poor treatment of her. They had filed down her top fangs presumably to use her as bait for a dog fighting ring. Josie is a true sweetheart, she never bites or scratches and never reveals any of her prior abuse.

Her time with Fancy Cats has allowed her to blossom into an even better cat than she already was. She understands body language and listens carefully to what people say. Her ability to comprehend has allowed Josie to learn something new every

day—how to play like a tiny scampering and hopping kitten with her sons, how to play on her own with toys, and that being held isn't nearly as scary as she first thought.



◀ **Henry Thoreau, Sherlock Holmes, Teddy Roosevelt, and Rhett Butler interrupt playtime for a family portrait!**

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Dear Friends and Supporters of Fancy Cats Rescue Team:

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our adopters, donors, and volunteers who have helped to make Fancy Cats Rescue Team successful in pursuing our mission. Overall, 2007 was another successful year for Fancy Cats in our goal of finding loving adopters for our fabulous felines.

We adopted 1,008 cats total.

Fancy Cats Rescue Team is obligated by the state of Virginia to annually publish a financial statement declaring income and expenses (see pp 4–5). In reviewing these statistics, you will see how in 2007, although expenses were on the rise, we have managed to reign in our operating costs. Cat food has almost doubled in price due to the rising cost of gas, our vet expenses are also increasing. Most of the cats that come in require at the very least standard veterinary care (spay/neutering, shots, testing) before they can be adopted. Many require more extensive intervention to combat the virulent infections that they arrive with, among other life threatening issues. Our greatest expense has been for medical care. Most of our seasoned foster homes have become accomplished caregivers, which has reduced our visits to the emergency room and thus one of our larger expenses. Nonetheless, some visits are inevitable in urgent cases.

Our adoption fairs solidified our presence at the PETSMART stores in Springfield, Fair Lakes, Chantilly and Gainesville. We are seeking additional volunteers for these stores to assist with adoption fairs as well as the daily maintenance of cats at these centers.

Last year, Fancy Cats continued to reach out to cats in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. However there are still too many shelters which continue to kill healthy animals. In the state of Virginia alone, 59,185 cats were euthanized in city, county shelters and humane societies in 2007. Shelter statistics do not account for the stray and abandoned animals that are not humanely euthanized! Many die from disease, are hit by cars, or are subjected to cruel deaths at the hands of humans.

This problem is everyone's responsibility. There is absolutely no reason why in a great country like ours, healthy animals are killed every day in shelters across America. Until owners fix their animals and communities get involved with having

strays sterilized and ferals trapped, neutered, and released (TNR)—an effective program that reduces the number of cats and kittens who end up at shelters—no amount of rescuers will matter because animals will continue to be senselessly killed across the country.

Too many tax dollars are spent on euthanasia yearly. Too many people turn a blind eye and hope someone else will take care of “the problem.” They believe a stray animal is not their responsibility. They bring the animals to shelters, believing that they have solved the problem. Unfortunately, that only solves their immediate

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◀ **Purrfection on four paws. Adopted as a kitten, Nicole was returned at age six. She does not do well at our adoption fairs, so continually is overlooked. Not to mention that black cats—even torties—are difficult to place. Nicole needs a quiet adult home where she can be your one and only! Please spread the word for her!**

Annual Report

2007

Fancy Cats Rescue Team
P.O. Box 182
Herndon, VA 0172-0182
info@fancycats.org

The Annual Report is issued by Fancy Cats Rescue Team to reflect news highlights and prior year's income and expenses.

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
Board of Directors, 2008*

Catherine McCullough Awad
President

Theresa Ronk
Vice President

Patricia Odette Bowdish
Treasurer

Trevor Brierly

*Fancy Cats Rescue Team
Board of Directors, 2007*

Catherine McCullough Awad
President

Therese Guerette
Vice President

Theresa Ronk
Treasurer

Danielle Denhardt
Secretary

Janice Jones

All photos by Bryce Dawley



▲ Binky and Pepper! Binky (left) and Pepper were turned into a local shelter due to the arrival of a new baby. They were so sad to lose the only home they ever knew! Binky and Pepper are very youthful for being older cats. They have many good years ahead and hope to find a new home where they will be loved and cherished.

problem, but not the bigger picture. The reality is that the vast majority of the animals given to shelters never get out alive (less than 10%).

When I created Fancy Cats Rescue Team in 1997, it was a labor of love. All those beautiful, homeless cats at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter touched me deeply and I knew, as a county resident and animal lover, there was more I could be doing to help. Ten thousand animals later, through the formation of Fancy Cats Rescue Team, a huge difference has been made in the lives of many, many, *many* cats.

The economic down swing has meant an up swing in the public contacting us for help. We field at least 50 calls daily from people wishing to give up their pets because they have lost their home, or their job, or are going through a divorce. We try to return most calls but this year has been difficult. We are stretched thin. Our foster homes are brimming with many nice cats.

We are getting cats returned to us every week. For example, Nicole (see page 2) who was adopted six years ago, as an 8-week old cat, came back due to her owners divorce. It is much harder to adopt her now as an older, scared, overweight cat. As a consequence, our foster homes are filling up with these challenging returns, which makes it impossible to take in new cats. On page 7, please read about some special cats who have been in our system a while. Please open your heart and home to one of these needy cats.

To compound the problem, because people are uncertain whether they will keep their jobs, adoptions are down. We have 250 kittens in our network that are eagerly awaiting new homes—beautiful fun-loving kittens that have grown up in foster care. We have never seen anything like it! See our cover story that highlights Josie and her brood of five boys.

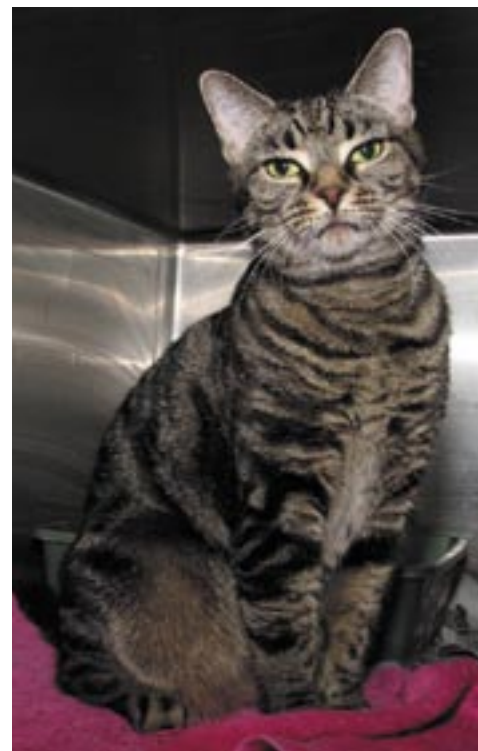
Area shelters contact us, too, asking us to make room. They are equally slammed with beautiful animals that have been brought in for all the same reasons listed above. It is overwhelming and has taken an emotional toll on Fancy Cats. Our volunteers who are ardent cat lovers, feel helpless as we see so many nice cats that we are unable to reach out to.

Fifty-five percent of our income comes from adoption fees (which barely covers the cost of vetting our foster cats). Although our adoptions have increased slightly in 2007 from the previous year, we are looking to our supporters and friends for help. Your time and money are the two things we need most this year. Please consider volunteering (especially as a foster home) or making a tax-deductible donation. When you realize that \$120 goes to spaying a female cat, \$108 goes to neutering a male cat, \$100 will pay to feed 40 foster cats a month, \$100 will pay for distemper shots for 50 kittens, you can see that a little will go a long way. Every minute or dollar that you can contribute towards helping these beautiful animals get well and find homes means everything. And your support means the most to us. *It is the fuel that keeps us going.* —Cathy Awad



► Meet the divine, Trish. Trish, an American Shorthair mix, has a plush coat with dark chocolatey swirls. She was rescued from a high kill shelter where she ran out of time. When Trish was spayed she was improperly sutured and almost bled to death. Heroic measures were taken by our Executive Director, Cathy Awad, to save Trish. She has really flourished under her loving care. Trish tends to be quiet and easily overlooked at adoption fairs. Please reach out to this amazing survivor.

◀ Hart, is all heart! He thinks he is a dog and will shadow you around the house. He is a big guy who gets along with other cat-friendly cats. The white fur around his eyes sometimes gets discolored due to allergies which might make him seem unwell. But he is quite healthy and eager for his own home!



Operations/Financial Report

by THERESA RONK

THE YEAR 2007 for Fancy Cats Rescue Team was a year of developing infrastructure and putting processes in place to support the growth the group experienced in 2005 and 2006.

By the end of 2006, Fancy Cats had grown from the management of one adoption center at the PetSmart at Fairlakes to four PetSmart adoption centers that included Gainesville, Springfield and Chantilly. The rapid growth of the group resulted in the increased intake of rescued cats and in turn, increased expenses. Our increase in adoption income was not so immediate and resulted in 2006 being a year where expenses exceeded income. Therefore, Fancy Cats had to devote human resources to the development of programs and processes in 2007 to increase income to offset the increased expenses.

Operations (new processes and systems for 2007) included:

Network of volunteers for each PetSmart Adoption

Center: Each store was assigned an adoption center manager and volunteers were recruited to support the operations of the adoption centers (cleaners, fosters and adoption coordinators and assistants).

Website redesign and developments (www.fancycats.org):

A redesign of the website made for easier navigability and organized the information for easier access by visitors. Fancy Cats increased our internet presence by registering with the Pet Adoption Portal. This portal is a free service provided by RescueGroups.org, a non-profit, unaffiliated organization whose mission is to help animal welfare organizations effectively work to end the pet overpopulation problem. The Pet Adoption Portal sends animal data and pictures to multiple pet adoption listing sites so our adoptable cats and kittens are simultaneously updated on Petfinder.com, Pets911.com, 1-800-Save-A-Pet.com, and Petharbor.com.

PetPoint Animal Management System database: The database previously held on Access was migrated to a web-based software offered to rescue groups called PetPoint Animal Management System. This database holds information on cats, adopters, donors, and volunteers, including contact information, medical history of the cats in our system. Our business relationship with PetPoint has made it possible to provide microchipping and a one-month medical insurance plan to all of our rescue cats adopted.

Hills Science Diet Shelter Nutrition Partnership: Fancy Cats Rescue Team continued our relationship with Science Diet which provides significant discounts on food for cats in our system, as well as provides sample bags to distribute to adopters of our cats.

We are also fortunate to have developed partnerships with local vets who provide their services at discounted rates.

Financial Summary

Fancy Cats Rescue Team was successful in meeting budgeted goals for income and expenses in 2007. Income was \$179,809 and expenses \$178,124, resulting in a net income profit of \$1,685. This followed two years of experiencing a deficit in net income.

Adoption income for 2007 was \$97,916, up from \$76,639 in 2006. This dramatic increase in adoption income can be attributed to increased adoptions from the internet

Income/Expenses		
<i>Income</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
Adoption Fees	\$97,916	\$76,639
Contributions	49,410	39,124
Campaigns	29,339	31,459
Miscellaneous	2,782	4,270
Fund raising events	362	0
Total Income	\$179,809	\$ 151,492
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
Veterinarian payments	\$92,316	\$ 113,898
Payroll and interest	22,465	2,785
Medical supplies	20,374	22,144
Cat food, supplies	19,756	19,293
Bank charges	5,850	0
Printing & reproduction	3,669	1,528
Legal and professional	2,470	2,000
Office supplies	2,176	2,730
Miscellaneous	1,930	2,764
Telephone/internet	1,690	1,319
Insurance	1,531	1,549
Shelter fees	1,245	465
Postage	1,185	283
Laundry	1,080	0
Utilities	262	630
Licenses, permits, taxes	125	260
Total Expenses	\$178,124	\$ 171,648

and the increase of adoption fairs at the four PetSmart locations.

Contribution income individual and company donations from the website; envelope response from the newsletter; donations from adoption fairs; and donations from owner releases increased to \$49,410 in 2007, from \$39,124 in 2006.

Campaign income decreased slightly, \$29,339 was collected in 2007 whereas \$31,459 was collected in 2006. Campaign income is generated primarily from the United Way donations. In 2008 Fancy Cats is focusing on increasing revenue streams with fund raisers and grants.

On the expense side, Fancy Cats worked to control veterinarian

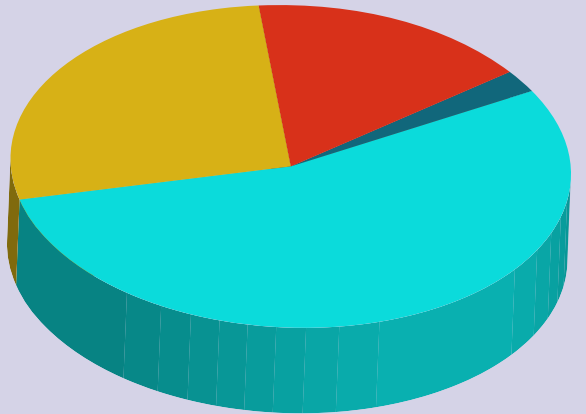
expenses. In 2007, total veterinarian payments were \$92,316 down from \$113,898 in 2006. Most of the veterinarian payment line item expenses are attributed to medical procedures and vaccines to prepare cats for adoption (i.e. spay/neuter, distemper, vaccines and microchipping.) Fancy Cats still experiences the challenges of unplanned medical care for cats that come into our system with upper respiratory infections, FIP and calicivirus which can be very costly to treat. Fancy Cats is fortunate to have foster homes that are knowledgeable caregivers which have reduced the need for emergency room visits. But nonetheless, these expenses are

unavoidable to treat very sick cats.

Fancy Cats hired Cathy Awad as Executive Director in 2007. Fancy Cats reached an organizational size and budget that a paid staff person was essential to manage Fancy Cats, dedicated to making decisions that are in line with our mission, strategic plan, and comply with our financial budget. The success of meeting the goals for income and expenses in the 2007 budget is attributed primarily to Cathy Awad and her capable management of the day-to-day operations.

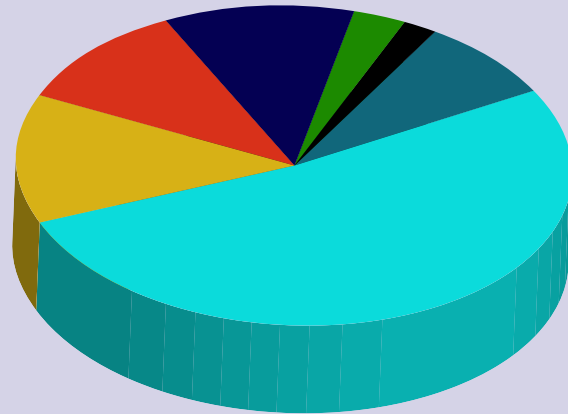
Fancy Cats is pleased to report that we are on track to meet budgeted income and expense goals for 2008. ■

**Income Summary
January through December 2007**



- Adoption fee
- Contribution income
- Campaign income
- Miscellaneous income

**Expense Summary
January through December 2007**



- Veterinarian payment
- Payroll & interest
- Cat food, supplies
- Medical supplies
- Interest & bank charges
- Printing and reproduction
- Miscellaneous expenses



▲ **Henry Thoreau** has a very loud purring engine that runs on 100% juice—all the time.

An easy keeper, Josie has perfect litter box manners, eats dry and wet food, and simply loves to lay by windows with birds fluttering nearby. She hardly ever meows, but when she does, her voice is a soft purring “mew mew.” Her absolute favorite thing is affection and attention from humans.

Her five sons are just as special as she is. They are all very gentle kittens. They all believe ice cubes are treats, use cardboard scratch boards, are litter trained, and love to be held, brushed, and play like crazy.

Josie and her brood are eagerly waiting to find their forever homes. They have been to many pet fairs where people fall in love with them

▼ **Josie** is a beautiful silver tuxedo with expressive green eyes. She is a true sweetheart, she never bites or scratches and never reveals any of her prior abuse.



and remark upon how affectionate and gentle they are, but at the end of the day they are passed over.

Rhett Butler is a black and white tuxedo clown. He is the largest, loves balls, and bounces on his tippy toes when he wants to surprise Josie or one of his brothers. He enjoys canned food, but he likes dry, too. This smart boy watches and learns from his brothers how to do things and get things he wants like affection or a toy up high.

Henry Thoreau is solid black brainy boy. His favorite toy is a crunchy soft worm, which he carries around the house and plays with constantly. When you call his name, he crouches down, wiggles, and pounces on over. If he's not sure what to think about a new object approaching him, but he's still curious about it, he'll stand up on his hind legs and watch it. This boy has a very loud purring engine that runs on 100% juice—all the time. He absolutely loves being held close and is a favorite for small children for this reason.

Teddy Roosevelt has a brown-tinged coat with a patch of white on his throat and a faint white horizontal line on his belly. Teddy's temperament so sweet, he cannot be placed in a home with dogs, or even aggressive cats. His gentleness makes him the cat everyone dreams of having. Teddy Roosevelt loves all kinds of toys, but especially those which dangle and require batting.



▲ **Rhett Butler** loves balls, and bounces on his tippy toes when he wants to surprise Josie or one of his brothers.

Sherlock Holmes is silky black with a white blaze on his chest and belly. The hairs in his ears are also white and his tail is so long, he loves to chase it. Much like his namesake, Sherlock loves to investigate and will discover any critters or possible adventures lurking. Of his brothers, Sherlock is the one that loves to leap after flying wand toys and who always manages to jump the highest.

T.S. Elliot has a black coat with a vivid white tie at his throat. Elliot is the ultimate lover boy. Rather than recite and write poetry, this boy runs as fast as he can when he hears his name called and leaps into your arms so you'll pet and hold him close. His brothers all give kisses, but Elliot gives them the most often and will randomly decide in the midst of playing to run over and give you kisses before running back to play again.

Josie, Rhett Butler, Sherlock Holmes, Henry Thoreau, Teddy Roosevelt, and T.S. Elliot are thankful for every single one of Fancy Cats' volunteers. They have been well loved and cared for and can't wait for their next adventure in their new forever homes. Email info@fancycats.org to find out how you can adopt these precious kittens.

We are thrilled to report that as the Annual Report was releasing, Josie was adopted by a loving family with a 9-year old daughter, also named Josie!

Waiting and Waiting for that Purrfect Home!

We have a number of beautiful cats that have been in our system for quite a while. Unfortunately, older cats, black cats, tortoiseshell cats are often overlooked when people are searching for a new companion. These cats make wonderful pets. They are soulful, intelligent adults cats who, since they are past the energetic kitten stage, tend not to be destructive. Adult cats are so appreciative, they really understand that they've been given a second chance.



▲ **Jamie** will melt your heart! He was rescued from a kill shelter in Virginia when his people moved and could not take him. Black cats often get overlooked but Jamie is such a special boy. He is a quiet, well mannered gentleman who is looking for the right lap in which to nestle.



▲ **Midnight-Magic's** story is a sad one. She came from a home where the woman shot and killed her husband leaving behind 27 animals. Midnight-Magic, a spayed Maine Coon, does not show well at our adoption fairs. She does not particularly enjoy cage life either! We think she will do best as an only cat. Part of her stress is just being in such close proximity to so many other cats in her current foster home. Please give this beauty queen a second chance!

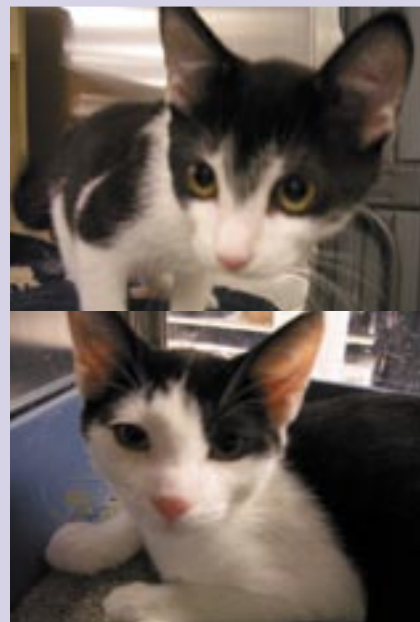


▲ **Winnie** was named after Soames' sister in John Galsworthy's *The Forsyte Saga*. She is the incarnation of that character: a poised, elegant British noblewoman! Winifred ended up at a shelter when her owner was moved to a nursing home that did not permit pets. Winnie has had all her dental work done recently. She tolerates her foster siblings but there is nothing that this regal cat would prefer more than a home of her own.

▼ **Taurus**, a rotund boy, stole the hearts of the shelter staff who rallied to find him rescue. He was so stressed at having lost his home that he tended to be a bit prickly when he first arrived. But now he has transformed into a big lap cat. He likes his foster siblings but, like Winnie, would probably be just as happy as a solo cat.



▲ **Lily** (on the right) and her beloved sister **Kayla** were rescued when they were two weeks old and lovingly bottle fed by their foster mom. They adore each other and form very strong bonds with their humans. They were adopted by a family at 8-weeks of age and recently returned to Fancy Cats when the teenage daughter left for college! How they miss their girl! They love to snuggle and sit in your lap. They are usually together when eating, sleeping, and playing. They have excellent kitty manners. They are not very happy in a cage and eager to find a forever home where they can remain together. This pair is a total delight! Please consider them!



▲ **Wyatt and Walker** are a pair of cow kittens that grew up in foster care. They are very sweet, gentle, and easy going. The only thing they seem to object to is the vacuum cleaner! Otherwise, they get along great with other cat-loving cats. They definitely are overdue for a home of their own! ■

Dear Cathy:

YES, I want to help Fancy Cats Rescue Team!

Each year, more than half the budget goes to spaying and neutering our cats. It also goes to care for more serious medical conditions for some of our new arrivals. We do not have a shelter, cats are kept in foster homes until a permanent, loving home is found. Please help us. Nearly 100% of your donation goes toward the care of rescued cats.

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make checks payable to Fancy Cats Rescue Team, P.O. Box 182, Herndon, VA 0172-0182

I want to find out about volunteer opportunities! Please contact me.

* Fancy Cats Rescue Team is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

That was then.



This is now.



Marc and Anthony were left at a high kill shelter where they were given three days to find a new home. In the state of Virginia alone, 59,185 cats were euthanized in city, county shelters and humane societies in 2007. The chance of an adult cat getting adopted is 1 in 10. In 2007, Fancy Cats Rescue Team rescued 1,008 cats and kittens, like Marc and Anthony, from these situations and found them loving homes. Email info@fancycats.org to find out how you can help us continue to help them.

It's amazing what a second chance at life will do.

