

# The Scratching Post



A Publication of **Fancy Cats Rescue Team** • ☎ 703/961-1056 • P O Box 182 • Herndon VA 20172-0182 • [www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org)

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## President's Letter

As we barrel to the close of 2008, it's been another tumultuous year. It is staggering to think how the economic climate trickles down and affects our four-legged friends. We've seen a huge number of owner returns as homes are foreclosed upon and people are forced into living arrangements that exclude animals. Last month, we received a plea from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter that within a two week period, 105 owner releases had been brought in (please see the story on page 2). It is tragic to think what could have happened to them and that there are so many others in a similar situation who do not get rescued.

As a volunteer based group, we depend on the generosity of our supporters to continue to be able to reach out to helpless felines. With rising medical costs, we never break even on adoption fees. We need your help now more than ever!

One way to contribute to Fancy Cats Rescue Team, as a federal employee, is through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our ID number for the Combined Federal Campaign and the United Way is 98772 and you can enroll until mid-December. Please help spread the word! If you are not a

government employee, you can make a donation at [www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org).

We are looking forward to upcoming adoption fairs at the new Reston PetsMart on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. This is another terrific opportunity to showcase our beautiful cats in addition to our centers at Fair Lakes, Chantilly, Springfield and Gainesville. As always, we are deeply grateful to PetsMart for providing these venues to show our cats.

We could never accomplish all that we do without our volunteers. Whether it is taking photographs for our website, writing and designing our newsletters, organizing our adoption fairs and other special events, or taking in a litter of kittens, I am moved by the energy and dedication of the Fancy Cats Rescue Team. I would like to welcome a number of new foster homes that recently joined the team. We are always on the lookout for more foster homes so please contact me, Cathy Awad, at [cawad@cox.net](mailto:cawad@cox.net) to learn more.

Finally, I want to send out a special thanks to all of our donors and to our adopters. There are no words to express my gratitude and appreciation. You play a big role in our success.

Happy Holidays!

**We are in desperate need of temporary foster homes to give cage breaks to some of our long time adoption center residents! Since we still have so many kittens, we'd like to give some of our adult cats the opportunity to stretch their legs in comfort. If you would like to be a temporary foster parent, please contact Fancy Cats.**



This newsletter is designed on a pro bono basis by Ms. Irina Vintila-Sinescu.

## Lily Lilac (“Justine”)

I set out on a quest to find my cat, Daisy, a well-matched playmate and before long word spread among local rescue groups about my search.

A foster mom from Fancy Cats contacted me about a very special three month old white cat with two different colored eyes to introduce me to. Despite this kitty's popularity because of her outgoing personality, odd affinity to water, and most unusual eyes - she was saving this one for that

special someone. I was given the honor of adopting Lily Lilac.

Daisy and Lily became fast friends. Lily set herself up as the daring leader and Daisy became her admiring follower. Lily fears nothing. She adores all people and will greet everyone at the door - not allowing anyone into her home without a few minutes of play and a tummy rub. Lily's affinity for water turned into an obsession. She loves to stand in a tub full of water and splash with her paws.

Her antics always keep me amused. Thank you for bringing Lily into my life! She's amazing!



Lily is always in the tub!

## Fancy Cats Saves the Day



In early October, Fancy Cats received an anxious phone call from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS). They had 105 cats in the shelter - adults and kittens, many turned in by their owners because of financial crises. FCAS had been trying not to euthanize healthy, adoptable cats, but they were at critical mass and would soon have no choice if Fancy Cats could not step in and take some of the cats. Because of our dedicated volunteers and the continued

financial support of our donors, Fancy Cats was able to rescue a total of 15 cats that day, including a cat that had been adopted from Fancy Cats. We were able to identify this cat because of our microchipping program.

The shelter sent us a very gracious note, which is reprinted below:

*We'd like to offer a great deal of gratitude to Fancy Cats for coming in and answering the call this weekend to save some of our feline friends whose time had run out. Not only did Cathy and team take three that we were trying to save...in addition they took eleven more cats plus one of theirs that was a return to us. Their efforts took a tremendous amount of pressure off*

*the space issue we had to overcome on Saturday and Sunday.*

*We all breathed a collective sigh of relief after what seemed like an army of Fancy Cat Volunteers arrived and gave us and our cats a very early Christmas present.*

*Please forward our deepest appreciation along to your foster homes.*

*With great appreciation to you and your team at Fancy Cats,*

*Fairfax County Volunteer Rescue Team and Shelter Staff*



## Volunteering with Fancy Cats - A Rewarding Experience

By Therese Guerette

Volunteering for any non-profit can be a very rewarding experience. I've met so many great people, made several close friends, and helped hundreds of cats find their ways to new forever homes. After 6 years, I find myself the volunteer manager of the Springfield PetsMart adoption center. Coordinating everyone from cleaners to adoption volunteers and ensuring there are enough cages to go around at adoption events can get a bit tricky. But, it's always fun to talk

with each other, share stories about our favorite kitties, and share suggestions about improvements that will make the cats more comfortable. It takes a lot of people, having fun and working hard, to get our cats into loving homes like yours.

We can always use more volunteers to fill a variety of positions: providing transport to and from vet visits, fostering, phoning adopters to follow-up on spay/neuter compliance, assisting at adoptions by talking to potential

adopters, or coordinating adoption events. We are also in need of people to clean at the Fair Lakes and Chantilly adoption centers on the following days: Chantilly – weekday mornings; Fair Lakes – Sunday & Wednesday evenings, Friday mornings & evenings, and Saturday mornings. We provide all the necessary training to perform any of these jobs. If you are interested in helping, please contact Danielle at [volunteer@fancycats.org](mailto:volunteer@fancycats.org). We desperately need you!

## Dear 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 questions.

*Dear Aggy,*

*I am owned by two kitties - Mouser and Mitsy. Why does my kitty Mitsy snarl, growl, and hiss at her best friend Mouser, every time he comes back from a stay at the vet?*

*Signed,*

*Purrr Plexed*

We have always heard that a kitty's sight is better than ours, since they can see things in the

dark when we can't. In reality a cat's sight is actually much more blurred than our vision, so kitty must rely heavily on their acute sense of smell to give them signals. When Mouser returns from the vet, he carries with him all the various vet smells - other people, other animals, medicines, etc. These are all strange and unknown smells to Mitsy, so for a while she literally does not recognize her friend. Some suggestions to speed up the recognition process: rub your hands over Mouser's fur, then rub your hands on Mitsy and vice versa. Keep doing this for a few minutes. Try bathing Mouser after

his vet visit. He'll smell like shampoo, but at least the vet smells will be washed away. You could even use a kitty bath wipe to do the same thing. Use familiar words as you call both of their names and talk to them as you would normally during a group cuddle session. If Mouser has a favorite towel or bed that has a lot of his fur on it, try rubbing that on him before putting him back with Mitsy. If your kitties like treats, feel free to extend the hand of diplomacy with a few nibbles (just don't put your hand in the middle of any snarling or hissing episodes—Aggy knows how that can end up!).

**Fancy Cats Rescue Team, Inc.**

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**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, more than half our budget goes to spaying and neutering our cats. It also goes to care for more serious medical conditions that we inherit from shelter or abandoned cats. Please help us keep these cats healthy and safe. Send your donation to:

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

You can also donate via PayPal, iGive, or Helping.org on our Web site: [fancycats.org](http://fancycats.org).

**Did you know...**

- \$10 feeds one cat for one month
- \$20 pays for insulin for one month for a diabetic cat
- \$30 pays for one month of latex gloves to clean cat cages
- \$35 pays for one male cat to be neutered
- \$75 pays for medicine to deworm 40 kittens
- \$85 pays for one female cat to be spayed
- \$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