

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

KITTY REVOLUTION



# KITTY REVOLUTION

Kitty Revolution is an all volunteer, no-kill cat rescue in the Twin Cities, MN metro area that seeks to save the unwanted, the misunderstood, the less-than-perfect, and to help change the way the world sees cats through community education and outreach.

Kitty Revolution was founded by a group of passionate, dedicated cat enthusiasts who are devoted to saving and improving the lives of the overlooked and otherwise discarded cats in our community. Rescue isn't just about cute kittens; it's about the scared, shy, dirty, unwanted cats, too. The older ones. The ones whose spirits have been broken, who have forgotten or maybe never learned how to trust, the ones who need time and patience and then more time. It's about the ones with serious medical needs and chronic illnesses. It's about meeting cats where they're at and understanding how far they can go.

## MEET OUR STAFF

### Volunteer Leadership Team

Robin Holland, Executive Director

Selma Saba, Adoption Coordinator

Erin Lerwick, Medical Coordinator

Ashley St. Lawrence & Noah Owings - Cafe Meow Coordinators

Sara Terrell, Volunteer Coordinator

### Board of Directors

Elizabeth Thompson, President

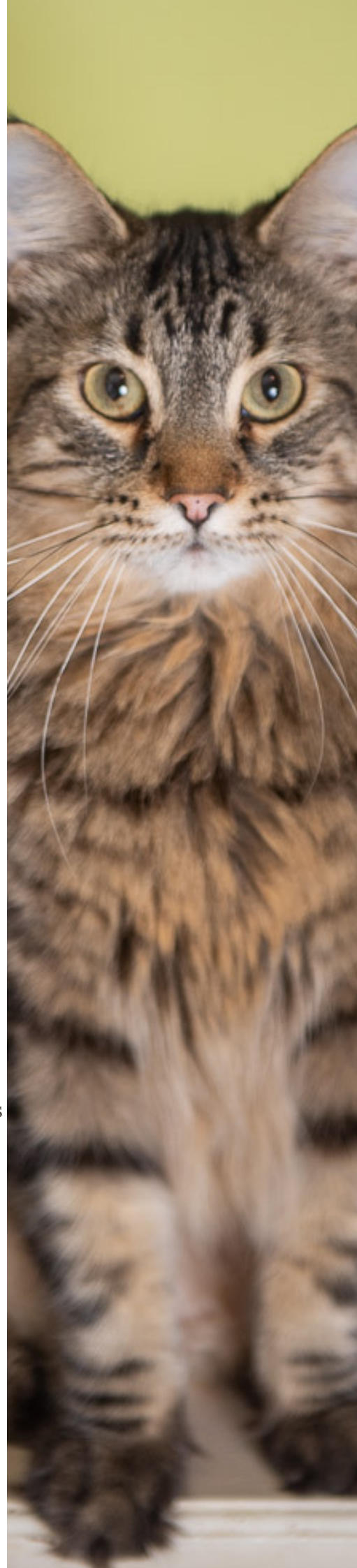
Penny Gronbeck, Secretary

Julie Doherty, Board Member at Large (pending election results)

Michelle Robison, Board Member at Large

Selma Saba, Board Member at Large

Mary Thrall, Board Member at Large





## LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Putting together this annual report gives me ample opportunity to wax nostalgic. So many memories come flooding back about the intake of one cat, the medical issues of another, the tragic stories, and the elation over some of the adoptions. The financial numbers really paint a story about how far we've come in our five years and just how many people support our efforts. I realized that I say this every year but it's so true. I love looking at all these details because of all the reminiscing that comes with it.

While perusing adoption stats and looking at recent intakes, an odd thing struck me - I had no idea who some of these cats were! It took me awhile to figure out why I was feeling so lost in the sea of Kitty Revolution cats. We hold our "clinic" at my house twice a month where volunteers bring their foster cats to get their distemper & rabies shots, blood drawn for FeLV/FIV tests, and microchips implanted. Our absolutely amazing volunteer vet Dr. Jerri Smith attends these clinics and bestows her wisdom upon us. She is truly a fabulous teacher and we'd be lost without her. We have incredible volunteer assistants (Peggy and Caia) who give up so much of their time to staff these clinics in addition to our phenomenal medical coordinator Erin Lerwick.

Unfortunately, somehow ringworm was brought into my house during one of these clinics. Since the clinic is held in one of my foster rooms, the way we found out about the contamination is when one of my fosters developed lesions. For those unfamiliar with ringworm, count your lucky stars! It's a highly contagious fungus (it's not a worm, as the name suggests) that causes rashes on the skin. Humans can get it, too! Getting rid of ringworm involves A LOT of deep cleaning multiple times a week because the spores live in the environment - on bedding, on furniture, in nooks and crannies (it's always in those nooks and crannies). The infected cats get topical cream and oral meds until the lesions are gone.

Ringworm isn't the end of the world (although some days it certainly feels like it) but because it's so contagious, we had to suspend hosting the clinics at my house. The incredibly kind Peggy Summers stepped in to host the clinics at her house for the next four months. She probably didn't realize it was going to be THAT long but I wanted to make sure my house was truly free of ringworm spores before I allowed clinic to return to my house. It's better to be safe than sorry.

That is why some of the names of these cats are a complete mystery to me. At the clinics, I don't do much except fetch supplies and meds but it seems as though hosting played a bigger role than I ever thought. The clinics weren't at my house for four months so I didn't get to meet all the new cats and volunteers.

It's amazing how one little thing can have such a big impact. The clinics have returned to my house and we will make sure our cleaning protocols will keep ringworm at bay to ensure the safety of not just my fosters but all of our cats. And I will continue playing hostess so that I can meet cats like Large Marge the Magnificent (she's almost 29 pounds!!!) and JoJo (who was only 20 pounds).

I'm excited to see what 2024 can bring us, just as long as it's not ringworm. We've all had enough of that.



# PROGRAM STATS

Once again, being on intake hold for several months really affected our numbers. Although our intake number decreased from the previous year, our adoptions increased in 2023. In fact, our intakes and adoption numbers were almost identical!

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Intake	27	124	204	192	285	273
Adoptions	4	47	184	153	259	271
Deaths		5	12	6	9	9

Where our cats came from tells another story. The number of owner surrendered cats has greatly increased from the previous year. This is partly due to our partnership with The Cafe Meow - New Hope. Kitty Revolution tends to take in shy, scared cats but those cats wouldn't be a good fit for the cafe environment. Because we want the cats we place at Cafe Meow to be happy and feel secure, we've started taking in friendlier cats and these tend to come from people surrendering their cats. Of course, the number of owner surrendered cats is fairly similar to the number of strays we took in, which is still in keeping with our vision.

	Intake Sources					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Born in Foster Care		16	33	8	39	25
Owner Surrender	3	5	44	61	61	87
Stray	13	80	86	92	87	81
Transfer	11	23	31	26	82	58
Returned			10	5	16	22

Another interesting number to point out is the number of returns. Kitty Revolution has adopted over 900 cats in our five years as a rescue. Since we are a rescue that will always take back one of our cats, we gladly accept these returns.



## TRIPLE ADOPTIONS

We've had 18 triple adoptions in 5 years! (And 3 quadruple adoptions!)

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2023 is our best year yet! And we’re only going to get better. We had a fantastic Give to the Max Day, which helped get us off intake hold once again.

Statement of Financial Position					
Assets	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$26,662.80	\$39,652.46	\$28,944.63	\$15,067.41	\$48,475.80
Total Assets	\$26,662.80	\$39,652.46	\$28,944.63	\$15,067.41	\$48,475.80
Liabilities and Net Assets					
Current Liabilities					
Total Current Liabilities	183.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$183.00				
Net Assets					
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$26,662.80	\$39,652.46	\$28,944.63	\$15,067.41	\$48,475.00
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$26,479.80	\$39,652.46	\$28,944.63	\$15,067.41	\$48,475.00

## ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

Leon, Bubbles, Alvin,Bing  
Clawsby, BB1, BB2, Ivy,  
Jamie, and Elmo



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – CONTINUED

## Statement of Activities

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Adoption Fees	\$6,930.00	\$28,662.50	\$21,405.00	\$46,669.00	\$54,185.00
Contributions	\$49,247.84	\$73,400.68	\$89,578.89	\$130,754.31	\$132,686.53
Summerlee Grant				\$7,000.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$2,449.91	\$1,526.90	\$6,191.50	\$7,456.83	\$7,899.11
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$58,627.75</b>	<b>\$103,590.08</b>	<b>\$117,175.39</b>	<b>\$191,880.14</b>	<b>\$194,770.64</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Veterinary Care	\$33,665.48	\$78,762.24	\$111,553.98	\$182,186.22	\$143,402.61
Food	\$4,448.66	\$8,167.07	\$11,392.93	\$16,535.23	\$9,327.14
Insurance	\$1,433.00	\$1,633.00	\$1,686.00	\$1,473.00	\$1,727.00
Sales Tax	\$757.21	\$997.00	\$2,006.00	\$3,534.00	\$3,799.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,063.20		\$622.26	\$653.89	\$717.85
Bank Processing Fees	\$343.12	\$858.11	\$622.05	\$1,375.02	\$2,068.65
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,710.67</b>	<b>\$90,417.92</b>	<b>\$127,883.22</b>	<b>\$205,757.36</b>	<b>\$161,042.25</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$16,917.08</b>	<b>\$13,172.66</b>	<b>-\$10,707.83</b>	<b>-\$13,877.22</b>	<b>\$33,728.39</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$9,562.72</b>	<b>\$26,479.80</b>	<b>\$39,652.46</b>	<b>\$28,944.63</b>	<b>\$15,067.41</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$26,479.80</b>	<b>\$39,652.46</b>	<b>\$28,944.63</b>	<b>\$15,067.41</b>	<b>\$48,795.80</b>

## Sources of Revenue

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Adoption Fees	12%	27%	18%	24%	28%
Contributions	84%	70%	77%	68%	68%
Merchandise Sales	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%
Grant				4%	

\$560

That's the cost per cat  
in our care.





## FIVE YEARS OLD

On October 17, 2018, we received our 501C3 paperwork. We were officially a nonprofit rescue!

We've had our ups and downs over the years. The downs are centered around finances that caused us to pause taking in cats. This happens every year. We're a rescue that tries to do all that it can for the cats in our care - and this sometimes means spending much, much more than we anticipated on vet care. If a cat needs a test like a CAT scan or surgery, we will absolutely do what is needed.

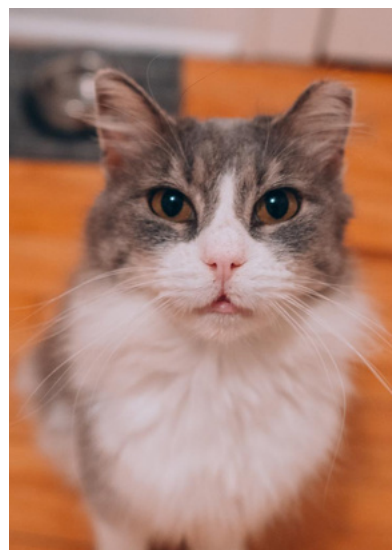


The ups are why we continue to save cats. There's nothing better than taking in a cat that few other rescues would take, nurturing that cat so that it's healthy and happy, and watching as it finds its forever home. Over the five years as a rescue, we've taken in 1108 cats and had 918 cats adopted. We're not a huge rescue so those numbers may not seem that daunting but that's 1000 lives that we helped.

Our growth can be attributed to two things: our diligent volunteers who put in hundreds and hundreds of hours keeping this rescue thriving and to our generous supporters. Sixty-eight percent of our revenue comes from donations. To our volunteers and our supporters: thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

# 43

We have a lot to be thankful for. Usually January is our top adoption month and this year that was certainly true.



# IN MEMORIAM

In an effort to be transparent about the reasons why nine cats in our care passed away last year, here are their stories. We tell their stories in order to keep their spirit alive. They are gone but not forgotten.

## Leon

First is Leon. Leon was surrendered to Kitty Revolution along with George, who was adopted from Kitty Revolution. Even though Leon wasn't a former KRev cat, he had bonded to George. We took them both in. George was a young cat; Leon was a senior.



There was always something not quite right with Leon. He had trouble defecating. He went to the vet many times to see what the issue was. He even saw an acupuncturist and a chiropractor. Leon had nerve damage in his spine that was making it difficult for him to go to the bathroom. One day, Leon wasn't walking straight. He was rushed to the ER vet where they determined that he had a brain tumor. Leon passed away suddenly.

## Alvin, BB1 & BB2, and Jamie

Alvin, BB1 & BB2, and Jamie were all orphaned bottle babies that failed to thrive. They were a mere few days old when they passed. They came from a hoarder house and were cold upon arrival. Our expert bottle feeder tried to work her magic but the three kittens just didn't respond.

## Bubbles

Bubbles is a heartbreaking one. He was surrendered to Minneapolis Animal Control (MACC) by his owner when it was noticed that he was vomiting and lethargic. A spool of thread was missing and it was theorized that Bubbles ate some of that thread. We rushed him to the emergency vet. He had an ultrasound that found the string in his intestines. He underwent emergency surgery. It seemed like he did well after the surgery but he coded soon after. Thread may seem innocent but is actually quite dangerous. Because it is so thin, it can slice through intestines and wrap tightly around other parts of the intestines.



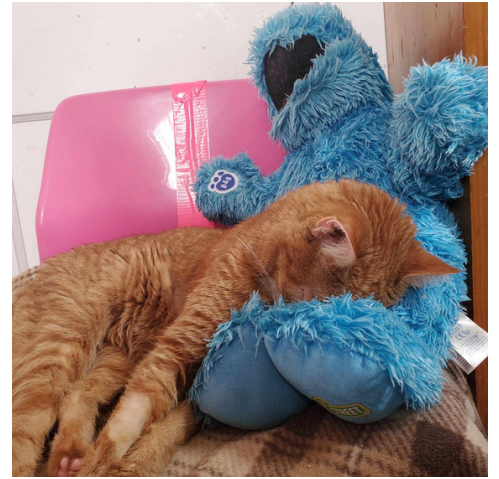


## Bing Clawsby

Bing Clawsby was a senior boy who suddenly passed away in his foster home. It was determined that he suffered a heart attack.

## Ivy

Ivy is another heartbreaking one. When her owner reached out with photos of her prolapsed rectum, we took Ivy to the emergency vet where she immediately had surgery to repair that issue. Her owner didn't want to surrender her as previously planned and took her home. A few days later, the owner reached back to us to surrender Ivy because Ivy wasn't doing well again. She was lethargic and wasn't eating. We rushed her to the vet where she passed away moments later.



## Elmo

Elmo was quite the enigma. Her finder thought she was just a kitten because she was super tiny and only a couple of pounds. We had only had Elmo a few days before she suddenly had a seizure. She was rushed to the ER vet where they realized her organs were shutting down. This wasn't a kitten at all but an adult cat, possibly even a senior. She was sadly euthanized to end her suffering.



We tell their stories because their life mattered. Kitty Revolution only euthanizes if it's the only real possibility. We don't euthanize because the procedure will cost too much. We do it when the cat's prognosis is poor, if they're suffering without hope of recovery. We really try to do as much for our cats as we can. Saying good-bye is the hardest part of rescue.

Leon, Bubbles, Alvin, Jamie, the kittens, Ivy, and Elmo, we hope you knew love. We hope you've made friends across that rainbow bridge. You will forever be in our hearts.

# 55

That's the number of adoptions we had in 2023 from The Cafe Meow - New Hope!

# OUR 2024 SPOKESKITTY

Each year we choose a spokeskitty that best sums up Kitty Revolution. This year we chose Sebastian. This is his story.

Sebastian came to Kitty Revolution as a two day old orphaned kitten. He was bottle fed until he learned to eat on his own. He was introduced to other kittens because he needed playmates. He bonded with two of them. All three were adopted together.

Fast forward two years. His former foster caregiver was asked by his adopters to babysit him (and the two friends he was adopted with). He soon began vomiting and refusing to eat. His caregiver took him to the vet. Bloodwork would show that his kidney values were off the charts. He was rushed to the ER and there he stayed for a week. Because his ER vet bill was \$5000 with the strong possibility that there would be many vet bills in Sebastian's future, the adopters made the painful decision to return Sebastian. Kitty Revolution paid his vet bill and took him back into foster care.

When we adopt out our cats, we tell the adopters that they can return the cat for any reason at any time, even ten years later when everything under the sun is wrong with the cat. We want to make sure our cats are taken care of. Sebastian was chosen as our 2024 spokesitty because he embodies who we are as a rescue - a rescue that always takes care of our cats.

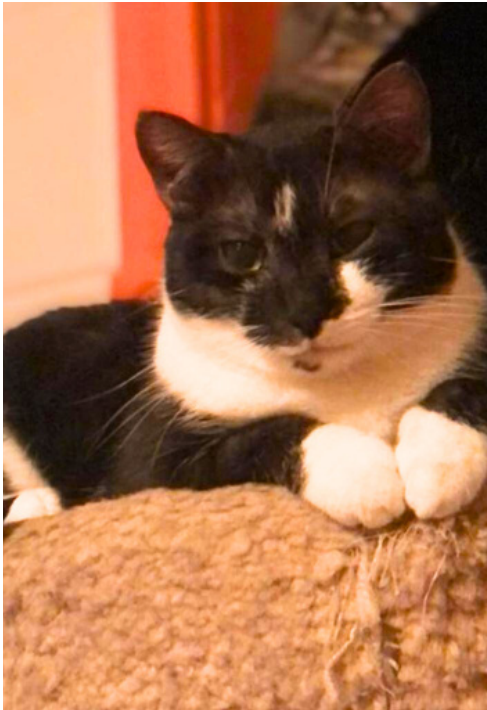
Sebastian spent almost a year in foster care. It took him several months to recover and once he was doing well, Sebastian packed on the pounds. He was recently adopted again, this time with a brand new friend named Daniel whom he bonded with in foster care.

By the way, the hat Sebastian wears in these two photos is the same hat!





# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



We took in Birch with his brother Sander as a six month old kittens in April of 2019. A few weeks later, his mother Nessie was live trapped and came to live in the same foster home.

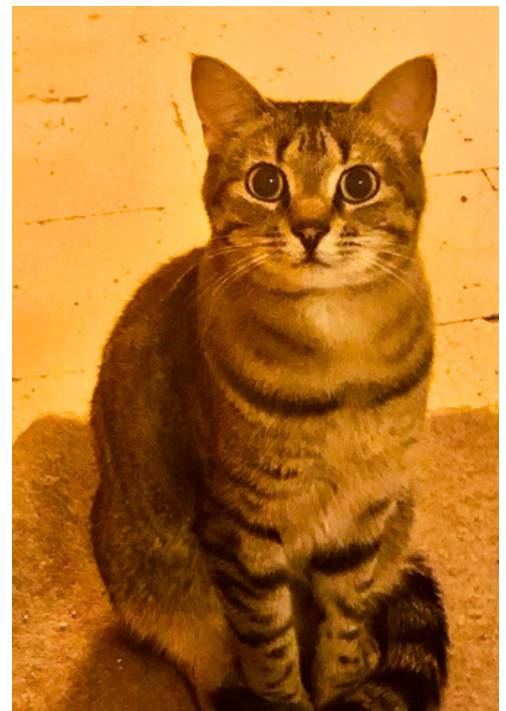
Both Birch and Sander were terrified of people. They were born outside and spent the first six months of their lives fending for themselves and avoiding interacting with humans. Their momma Nessie taught them - humans are scary!

Sparkler was taken into the same foster home a couple months later, along with her sisters and several cousins. She was eight weeks old. All of her family was adopted, except Sparkler. She was much shyer than the rest of them and hid whenever someone other than her caregiver came into the room.

Meanwhile, in another foster room in the same house, Birch's momma Nessie gave birth to six kittens. Those six kittens grew up quickly and got adopted. Momma Nessie was still terrified of her human caregiver. She took another year to slowly warmed up to her caregiver. She then quickly overcame her fears and her human caregiver was her best friend! Nessie loved to be petted and turned into quite the lap cat. Three years from the time she entered foster care, she was adopted and is now the life of the party in her forever home.

Sparkler and Birch became friends. They would play together. And they would curl up together in the same bed. They were still quite scared of strangers but were learning that their caregiver was pretty nice. Birch learned to give amazing head butts that would literally knock his caregiver off her feet. Sparkler learned that if she chatted her caregiver's ear off enough, she'd get extra treats. She had a wonderfully sing-song chirp.

Years passed as both Birch and Sparkler waited for the perfect person to adopt them. They had many interviews but would hide each and every time. It took 2000 days in foster care but Birch and Sparkler finally found their



## BIRCH & SPARKLER

forever person and are doing so well in their new home!





Dora is a senior girl that knows what she likes and what she doesn't like - and isn't afraid to tell you about them. She likes laps. She dislikes other cats. Like really, really hates other cats. She has her own room in foster care because of her strong dislike of any and every other furry creature and she will hiss when she hears the kittens playing in the room adjacent to hers. Her hiss is the cat equivalent of "Get off my lawn!"

Dora came to us with ringworm. Because the foster caregiver already had fosters with ringworm, she lept at the chance to take in Dora. Not too many rescues or too many other caregivers would willingly take in a cat with known ringworm.

Dora was an owner surrender. Her owner was at his wit's end dealing with her ringworm. He had spent thousands of dollars on her care trying to rid her of the ringworm. He even had her boarded for three weeks so that she could finally be free of ringworm. Since he lived in an apartment with old wall-to-wall carpeting, Dora kept re-infecting herself. He had the carpets professionally cleaned. He threw out his mattress and her cat tower. But still, ringworm lesions kept popping up. Her owner even got ringworm himself. He tearfully decided that since he couldn't prevent Dora from getting ringworm over and over and over again, he had to get her to an environment that could help her.

Shortly after caring for Dora, her Kitty Revolution foster caregiver realized that Dora's bare spots were not ringworm lesions but were instead caused by food allergies. Dora was taken to Maplebrook Pet Care Center, one of our incredible vet clinics, where they, too, realized that Dora's itchiness was food related. She was put on a daily medication that helps fight inflammation and her food was changed to a limited ingredient alternate protein diet. The top food allergens are chicken, fish/seafood, and beef. Now that Dora isn't consuming any allergens, her fur has grown back beautifully and she's a very happy cat. As long as those darn kittens stay off her lawn.



# DORA

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The thing you have to know about Cowboy is he's a hugger. When Cowboy came to us, he was pretty mellow. He hugged his new caregiver every chance he could. It felt like a thank you to finally be somewhere quiet. After his rabies vaccination, he seemed to have a reaction to it. He stopped eating. A vet exam would discover why - Cowboy had FIP.

Years ago, FIP was a death sentence. It's pretty much 100% fatal. While there's still no FDA approved cure for FIP, there are some experimental drugs. These drugs are incredibly expensive. It's a three month treatment plan that costs over \$2000. But it works. It really does work. There's a bunch of polictics surrounding why the drug isn't approved in the United States but we try to focus on the

bright side: for those who can get the medication, it's a game changer.

Now that Cowboy has survived his FIP treatment, he's a different cat. He's rambunctious and loves to sit on the top of his cat tree right in front of the window. He loves kicker toys and any project like tearing up a cardboard box. But he's still a hugger.

Cowboy spent a year in foster care. Three months were spent receiving the FIP drugs. Three months were spent afterwards during the "watch" phase of the treatment. After he was medically cleared, Cowboy was posted for adoption. It took a few months but Cowboy did find his forever person (his adoption will be noted in next year's annual report since it was in <spoiler alert> 2024.



## COWBOY





After Jon Snow's owner died, a relative inherited Jon Snow. The relative did not want him and spent little time with him. When he started pooping and peeing outside the litter box, the relative brought him to the vet to be euthanized. The vet refused. The vet wanted to run tests to see what was causing these issues. The relative rejected the request. The vet asked the relative to surrender the cat. He then called us.

A lot of rescues wouldn't take on a cat with these types of issues. If it's not medical, it would be behavioral - and who wants to adopt a cat that doesn't use the litter box? Quite often these behavioral issues are environmental. The cat doesn't like something in the home. The trick is to figure

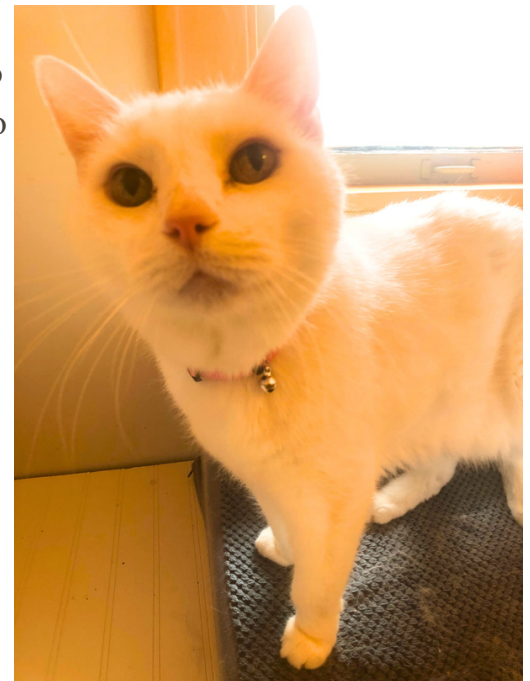
out what that trigger is but that takes patience.

Jon Snow's issues were part medical and part behavioral. Defecating outside the box was because Jon had food allergies & IBD. A change in his food with a probiotic solved that issue. But the peeing... That one took a little longer to figure out.

It turns out Jon Snow doesn't particularly like other cats. He really doesn't like smelling another cat's pee (okay, who does?). As long as he's not around other cats and there's no traces of another cat's markings, he's fine. He uses his box like a champ. Absolutely no accidents.

It may seem odd that we're showcasing a cat with known behavioral issues but we want to be honest. We tell potential adopters about all the known issues we've encountered with our foster cats.

Jon Snow did find his perfect adopters (another spoiler alert since his adoption was in 2024). He's had nary an accident in his forever home. He's one happy guy. He just needed a chance.



## JON SNOW



# ADOPTIONS 2023

Duncan & Home Fry, Pumpkin & Roxy, Lupa & Maximillian, Blaze, Flame & Ichabod, Dash & Romy, Tato, Peppa & Sage, Cora & Elsie, Belafonte, Beatrice & Buddy G, Ellywick Queen Among Bears & Xena, Jupiter, Sammie, Good Janet & Tahani, Nixie, Emmitt, Whisker Bill, Donna, Kantishna & Talkeetna, Truffle, Pavlov, Tessa, Teddy, Benji, Gin, Lizzie, Chili & Sprout, Pacey, Lulu & Mouse, StayPuft, Pawl Newman, Baby & Hanna, French Onion, French Toast & Haven, Django & Pickle, Catalina & Filipe & Zorro, Schrodinger, Rosalie, Miso, Chuck, Rizzo & Sandy, Oona, Muffin, Cutie Pie, Betty Bean, Dobby & Robby, Pluto, Dani, Itty Bitty & Nemo, Samwise, Valentino, LaBeau, Firecracker, PufNStuf, Piebald, Luna, Linus, Cobbler, Gonzo, Pawl Newman (again), Rebel, Kenickie & Marti, Bobby, Alfond, Mongoose, Alex, Chrysanthemum & Rose, Boba, Naruto, Huxley & Livvy, Wasabi, GusGus, Chicken Little, Matcha, Mochi, Oreo, Fauna, Sunshine, Midas, Sisheart, Chestnut, Webster, Pearl, Chai & Gordie, Fey & Wilhelmina, Percival, Oscar the Grouch, Alouette & Paloma, Jennipurr Garner (again), MaiTai & Whiskey, Crunchy, Moonlight, Rainbow, Aspen & Private, Mirri, Bitsy Boots, Mele & MuuMuu, Charlie & Mulch, King Kosmo, Declan, Lady Anne, Stanley, Chloe, Ionian & Rhodes, Macaroni, Daxos, Little Gray, Cat Burglar, Cabbage & Sir Oreo Doublestuff, Tabby, Lipa, Mercedes & Renault, Cecily, Chucky, Petunia & Primrose, Frenchie & Squeaky, Cruz, Princeton & Sarah Lawrence, Legend, Magers & Quinn, Colt & Packard, Annie Moo, Checkers, Radish & Turnip, Puka & Tiki, Hot Sauce & Theodorable Theo, Magenta & Periwinkle, Sybil, Bonita, Silver, Ginny, Leo, Percival (again), Sweet Promise, Scraps, Spring & Winter (again), Jetta & Vega, Miley & Otis, Corfu & Mykonos & Santorini, Nala, Hissy Elliot & Meow J Blige, Lyric, Shiloh, Fig & Plum, Puma, Cece, Bro & Saffron, Princess Peach & Supurr Luigi & Supurr Mario, Bowser, Princeton & Sarah Lawrence (again) Angel, Ginny (again), Bunny & Buzz & Chicken, Trumpet, Cherokee & Delaware, Abbott & Dawnton, Rory, Chestnut, Big Fluff & Tractor, Frederick, Tink & Wendy, Simon & Theodore, Astrid, Camille, Earl & Wanda, Swift & Taylor, Jackson, Quarrel, Lita, Mango, Kiwi, Freddie Hulbert, Bruno Mars & Kendra Burns, Howl, Aubrey, Cary Grant, Mamacita, Ace Gaston, Mamacita (again) Princess Leia, Dolly Pawton, Abigail, Kiwi, Booger & Perfect Angel, Kingler & Princess Diana, Reba & Willie, Nandor, Isabelle, Earl Jr & Tori, Garth Brooks, Birch & Sparkler, Bigsby & Marley, Franki Valli & Harry Kane, Trish Stratus, and Beau & Ronan

