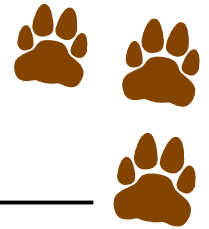


GAIA GAZETTE



FROM THE FOUNDERS...

What a year this has been! One year ago, this January, we first looked at our new property. Now we are in with everyone settled and warm and cozy in their new homes. We are so very grateful for all the help and support from all of you!

Moving all the cats was quite a trip and those of you who helped us were angels from heaven. Our thanks goes out to: Sue, Aaron, Ginny, Sharon, Connie, Jen, Lisa and Nicole! You should have seen the calvacade of cars with all the meowing, and unhappy cats which were loaded in carriers. One of the cats was so stressed he began to seizure, but Sharon is a veterinarian and she took him immediately to her clinic. We are happy to report he had a full recovery and is happily adjusted. Another cat, Stripe, spent the first month in the rafters despite our constant efforts to keep him down. He now is happily adjusted and never goes to the rafters (thank heavens!).

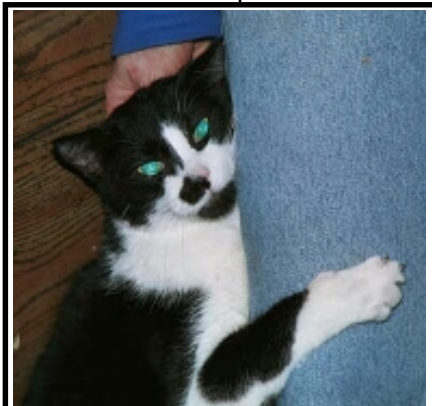
Our thank you's go out to Pat Rusnell, our realtor. She engineered everything including the financing. If it wasn't for Pat, the move would never have happened. She found the property and helped us find the people who would finance it for us. Then she returned most of her fee to us, to be used to help get the facility ready. If there are any rescuers out there who need to find the perfect property call us and we will get you her number. She is wonderful and has her own little rescue operation in her garage.

Speaking of financing, we absolutely did not have the money for this venture with all the renovations that had to be done to the facility, but all of you generously contributed each month making possible the new heating system, the paneling to cover the insulation (so the cats do not destroy it), the separation walls, paint for the floors, renovating the electrical and plumbing systems, and so much more. Roger did all the work himself so that we did not have to pay for anything except the materials. Some of us were able to help him by painting the floors as well. We can thank Ann Marie, Phil, and Dianne for help with that. Brian also came and helped him do things like get the walls up and heavy things that Roger could not do alone.

We would like to extend our thanks to Michigan State Vet School, who has been helping us with spaying and neutering. They will only do the friendly cats since students are learning how to spay and neuter, not how to subdue a wild cat. We are grateful for their help in this area even with just the friendly cats. Our regular vet, Carousel Cat Clinic, still handles the spaying and neutering of our wild cats. They are very good at it, thank heaven, since most of ours are wild at first. We continue to thank them for their continued and unending help.

Now you notice that the newsletter has gotten a facelift. We want to thank Sabrina who has volunteered to do the newsletter for us. Her skills are awesome, and we look forward to each new issue of our newsletter. She came and took many pictures of all our animals, and provided us with a keepsake album as well as providing pictures for the newsletter for our new "Adoption Corner." We are so grateful!

The bottom line of this article is to express the miracle we have had with all the wonderful people who have come forward to help our kitties. Roger and I are so very grateful to all of you who care so



HOLIDAY - Looking for a loving home. He is a 3-year old neutered male who is extremely friendly. He demands being held.

ANIMAL BILL OF RIGHTS

by Rodale Press, Inc.

1. We have the right to be **full members of your family**. We thrive on social interaction, praise, and love.
2. We have the right to **stimulation**. We need new games, new toys, new experiences, and new smells to be happy.
3. We have the right to **regular exercise**. Without it, we could become hyper, sluggish...or fat.
4. We have the right to have **fun**. We enjoy acting like clowns now and then; don't expect us to be predictable all the time.
5. We have the right to **quality health care**. Please stay good friends with our vet!
6. We have the right to a **good diet**. Like some people, we don't know what's best for us. We depend on you.
7. We have the right **not to be rejected** because of your expectations that we be great show dogs or show cats, watchdogs, hunters, or baby-sitters.
8. We have the right to receive **proper training**. Otherwise, our good relationship could be marred by confusion and strife - and we could become dangerous to ourselves and others.
9. We have the right to **guidance and correction** based on understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.
10. We have the right to **live with dignity**...and to die with dignity when the time comes.



6 SUGGESTIONS TO GET YOUR KITTY BACK TO THE LITTER BOX

by Dr. Bruce Elsey, D.V.M.

Nonuse of a litter box is one of the main reasons for cat abandonment and abuse. Here are some steps to take when litter box problems occur.

Clean the Litter Box

Dump the entire contents of the litter box, wash it with soap and water and refill it with four inches of litter. Remove any solids and urine clumps daily. A dirty litter box is the number one reason a cat stops using it.

Take the Hood Off

A hood is great for keeping litter in the box but also holds in odor. Often a cat will reject the box because of the odor retained in the box. The hood also keeps you from seeing that it needs to be cleaned.

Back to the Litterbox (cont'd)

Re-think the Location of Your Cat's Litter Box

A quiet corner, out of the way of household traffic, but with easy access is best. Noise, light and vibrations can be disturbing. Also, don't place the litter box near your cat's food. Cats do not like to eat where they poop!

Switch to an Unscented or Moisture Release Litter

Maybe your scented litter has too much scent. Use only a moisture release scented litter. Cats do not always like the smell of strong perfumes or cedar.

Have More than One Litter Box

Have more than one cat? Have more than one litter box. Each cat should have its very own litter box. Some cats just don't want to share.

Clean the Area

If your cat has used an area other than the litter box, clean the area thoroughly. Use an enzymatic cleaner on the carpet or floor and then put things around the area they don't like, such as a citrus "stick-up", ground up moth balls or squares of aluminum foil or plastic. You want to make it tough for them to go back and easy for them to use their litter box. This should help you get your cat back in the box. If the problem persists, consult your veterinarian. Your feline friend may have a urinary problem that requires medical attention.

FROM THE FOUNDERS (CONT'D)

much and have shown it in so many wonderful ways! When the snow threatened to overwhelm us and the trash men would not pick up our dumpster because of the snow (what a mess with all the litter that had to be taken away), Lisa and Roger's dad contributed a tractor with a snow blower to remove it. When we needed climbers, Shelley went online and sent them to us through E-bay. Helen saw the need for heat and bought our first tank of propane as well as supplemental electric heaters for the kittens, elderly, and ill. Marty sent expandable cat tunnel toys to keep everyone entertained. Marlene raised money both online along with her husband. Charles, Donna, and Wendy raised money through friends, Ann Marie came up with creative toys that hung from the ceiling. Petco has given us a place to do adoptions. Pet Supplies Plus in Ann Arbor and Canton donate ripped bags to us each week. Stephanie took wonderful pictures and also made an album for us. Thanks to Jeanne who always comes up with ways to get donations for us, and as you can see, the list goes on. We know we haven't mentioned everyone, but we are truly just so grateful to you all! This has been a true miracle all the way through and it just continues.



MISS KITTY - Looking for a loving home. She is an extremely loving manx, short hair, calico. She gives hugs and much affection, but hates her litter pans.

Mr. Pitiful, a dearly loved rescue, from Dr. Yvette Gordon.
Beulah Ewald, Dr. Ewald's mother, from Agatha P. Kalkanis.
Beulah Ewald, Dr. Ewald's mother, from Stella Moienda.
Anne Formell, in Wally Appelet's name, from Wendy Martin.
Dianne DeMay in loving memory of her dog, Sam.
Dianne DeMay in loving memory of her friend's cat, Josie Dick.

Contributions made in memory of dearly loved: both human and feline.



SPAY & NEUTER

It is recommended that your female pet be spayed or male pet be neutered by six months of age (although it can be done to adult cats). Spaying prevents unwanted pregnancy, prevents cancer of the reproductive system, eliminates the potential for infections of the uterus later in life, and reduces the potential for breast cancer, especially if performed before the first heat cycle. Neutering, or castration, of your male pet eliminates the potential for cancer of the testicles. The urge to spray urine, or scent mark, will be greatly reduced or even eliminated. The male is also no longer agitated by females and the strong hormonal drive to reproduce. He will tend to roam less, decreasing the potential to be hit by a car or otherwise injured, become lost, or be involved in territorial fights.

Plants That Are Poisonous To Your Feline

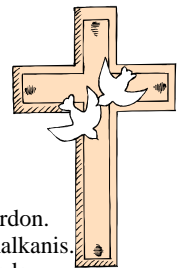
by: Dr. Jill Richardson



Aloe Vera
Amaryllis
Apple (seeds)
Apple Leaf Croton
Apricot (pit)
Asparagus Fern
Autumn Crocus
Azalea
Baby's Breath
Bird of Paradise
Branching Ivy
Buckeye
Buddhist Pine
(check next issue for a continued list)

Dr. Jill is a Veterinary Poison Information Specialist of the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center

In
Memory
of



Wish List

Heating Pads
Hard Cloth Wire
Blankets
Cat Climbers
Cat Toys
Cages All Sizes
Clorox
Sponges



Buckets
Mops
Paper Towels
Cat Food (dry)
Cat Food (canned)
Woodchips
Folding Table
(for adopt-a-pet shows)

Folding Chairs
(for adopt-a-pet shows)
Squirt Bottles
Meat Baby Food
Cat Nip

ADOPTION CORNER



SPARKLE - She is a 4 year old, long haired, calico. She is spayed. Sparkle is a quiet cat, and a little shy. But once she trusts you, she is very loving. Is she right for your home?



MOMMA - She is a 4 year old, short haired, calico. She is spayed and very friendly. She would be a great addition to any home.



HUFFY PUFF - He is a 2 year old neutered male. He is grey and white with a little bit of tan mixed in. He is very loving, and needs a little extra attention. He has a chronic, but mild upper-respiratory problem. Can you open your heart to him?



LEO - We have no age for him. He came from the wild, but he has decided people are nice and being loved is wonderful. He is good for anyone who wants a huge orange long haired neutered male.



MARNEY - We are not sure of her age, because she was dumped and abused. She is 2 years old, front declawed, and spayed. She is shy from the abuse she encountered, but is becoming friendly. She needs someone to provide a consistent loving environment so she can trust again.



GINGER - She is a beautiful 2 year old. She is a short haired calico and very gentle and loving. She will be a great addition to any family.



BETTY BOOP - We are not sure of her age, but she is a short hair calico. She is a little shy, but gentle. She is FIV positive. She must be an only cat or go to a home with other FIV positive cats.

Gaia Rehabilitation Center, has been providing homes for stray and abused animals for 8 years. Currently they have found a new facility which houses over 350+ cats, kittens and their mothers. For every 10 cats they take in only one gets adopted. *Can you provide the home that they are searching for?* Watch the adoption corner for more adoptees to come.

TO ADOPT CALL: GAIA ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTER AT 517-521-1333

Gaia Animal Rehabilitation Center
GAIA GAZETTE
9530 Judd
Fowlerville, MI 48836
(517) 521-1333

??? DID YOU KNOW ??? ABOUT CATS ???

► The tail, too, is an anatomical marvel. It's a highly specialized tool of communication, but more importantly, it helps balance the body. Like a tightrope walker's pole, this appendage acts as a counterweight in such feline high wire acts as climbing trees, walking along a chair back or tiptoeing across ceiling-high shelves. The tail also serves as a gyroscope of sorts, allowing the cat to maintain its orientation in sharp turns made while on the run, a critical advantage when hunting. In the dizzying, zigzag pursuit of desperate prey, the cheetah, for instance, uses its extra-long tail to stay upright during each abrupt change of direction.

► The belief that cats can see in the dark is an exaggeration. Felines can see no better in total darkness than humans can, but special night-vision adaptations allow them to see extremely well in even the dimmest light, a vital ability for nocturnal hunters. While sensitive hearing may help the cat initially detect prey, its keen, nighttime-adapted vision permits it to identify the location of a potential meal with deadly, laser-beam accuracy.

► Grooming also regulates body temperature. In warm weather, the saliva acts as a coolant that can reduce a cat's body heat by as much as one-third. In lower temperatures, the rake-like tongue aligns the hairs of the coat so that they retain heat and keep out the cold.

► No one is quite sure why, but the solitary cat's lifestyle, punctuated by frenetic, energy-draining bursts of hunting and playing, is thought to necessitate this form of energy conservation. In fact, sleeping wildcats are often described as "resting for the hunt." Because they consume so much energy in taking down large, wily prey, wildcats usually sleep even more than domestic cats. Female lions, the primary hunters of the species, have been known to rest or sleep as much as 20 hours a day.

Cleaning Those Kitty Messes

URINE

Blot up liquid with paper towels. Pour club soda on the area, then blot it up with paper towels. Next, apply a pet-odor neutralizer, following the product's directions. If stains remain, use a commercial stain remover designed for pet stains.

FECES

Remove solids, then blot up any moisture with paper towels. Follow with cleaning procedure for urine.

VOMIT

As quickly as possible, scoop up solids and apply baking soda or salt. When dry, vacuum up the rest. Follow by pouring club soda on the area, then blotting it up with paper towels. If stains remain, apply a nontoxic commercial carpet and upholstery cleaner or stain remover designed for pet stains.

OVERTURNED PLANTS

Vacuum up soil. For stains, let any remaining moist soil dry first, then vacuum again. Apply club soda and blot with paper towels. Follow with a nontoxic commercial carpet and upholstery cleaner or stain remover.

OTHER

For difficult-to-remove matter, follow cleaning procedure for urine. If stains remain, mix 1/2 cup of 3% hydrogen peroxide with 1 teaspoon of ammonia and apply solution to stain. Rinse with club soda to remove peroxide and ammonia residue.

