

OAR CELEBRATES FERAL CAT DAY

National Feral Cat Day, created to raise awareness about feral cats, recognize the millions of compassionate people who care about them, and promote Trap-Neuter-Return, is scheduled for **Sunday, Oct. 16**. OAR is celebrating its roots in feral cat advocacy with a variety of special events.



Fall 2011

There will be a Saturday Feral Cat Fix-a-thon on Oct. 15. The cats are ready, our clinic staff is limbering up for a long day, and now all we need is your help! OAR has already obtained a \$1,000 grant from Alley Cat Allies towards the Fix-a-thon effort — only one of five awarded across the country! Now an additional \$1,600 is needed to help us reach our goal of spaying and neutering 75 cats in one day. **With your generous donation, OAR will provide feral spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations for just \$5. This special price will also be offered on Wednesday, Oct. 19, and Friday, Oct. 21.** Trap-Neuter-Return will help improve the health of cats visiting our clinic and ease the burden on their caretakers by preventing hundreds of additional homeless kittens. To donate, please visit <http://oar.chipin.com/feral-cat-fix-a-thon>.

In addition to the Fix-a-thon, there will be great food, games, information on feral colony management, demonstrations and, of course, the chance to visit our shelter residents awaiting adoption during the **Black Cat Block Party open house, Oct. 16, 1-4 p.m.**, at the rescue. Some outdoor activities are planned, so parking in OAR's lot will be limited. Space will be available on nearby streets.

We'll be raffling six great baskets at the open house. Tickets can be purchased during the event. We've also included some tickets in the newsletter so you can send them in with payment ahead of time. Please be sure to fill in the basket number you're interested in. If you don't indicate your choice, we'll randomly allocate your tickets among the basket drawings. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Be sure to visit www.ohioalleycat.org for more information as Feral Cat Day approaches.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Vintage Black Cat Basket | 2. Halloween Party Basket | 3. Fall Themed Basket |
| 4. No Kill Movement Basket | 5. Pasta/Italian Basket | 6. Halloween/Black Cat Basket |
- autographed Nathan Winograd books & more...

OAR Receives \$500,000 Grant for New Rescue Building

At the end of May, Ohio Alleycat Resource & Spay/Neuter Clinic received a \$500,000 grant from the Joanie, Jeanne and Howard Bernard Foundation. This money will be used to build the Joanie Bernard Home for Cats, which will house the shelter portion of OAR. Joanie, who died days after the gift was made, cared deeply about the welfare of the cats of Cincinnati, and we're honored that she and her foundation board chose OAR to receive such a generous grant.

The new building will be constructed on our existing property. The current building, which will continue to house the spay/neuter clinic and Feral Cat Resource Center, will be remodeled to better meet clinic and resource center needs. The OAR board is currently talking to architectural firms about the project and plans to complete the new building by the end of 2012. For further information about the project, check our web site or email director@ohioalleycat.org.

Joanie Bernard was a true friend to both the cats of OAR and the cats of Cincinnati. Her kind spirit and good humor will be greatly missed but her legacy of caring will live on through the Joanie, Jeanne and Howard Bernard Foundation, which was established "to eradicate the need for and practice of euthanasia of cats." According to their mission -- "Concentrating initially on the Greater Cincinnati area, the Foundation will forward the aim of various organizations to care for cats in shelters, aid in the care for feral cat communities, educate the public about the benefits of spaying/neutering and fund clinics that perform spay/neuter services." OAR looks forward to working with the Joanie, Jeanne and Howard Bernard Foundation to help the cats in our area.

Ohio Alleycat Resource & Spay/Neuter Clinic Mission

Ohio Alleycat Resource & Spay/Neuter Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to enrich the lives of cats and communities in Greater Cincinnati by providing low-cost, high-quality spay/neuter services for ferals, strays and pets; offering TNR (trap-neuter-return) and other outreach programs; and running a small, no-kill adoption center dedicated to finding loving homes.

ohioalleycat.org • info@ohioalleycat.org

Love Knows No Color – Adopt a Black Cat

Studies show that black cats are often the last to be adopted and the first to be euthanized in many shelters. Some adopters claim they don't make a connection with a black cat, that they're just too ordinary, and don't stand out among more brightly colored calicos and uniquely marked tabbies. Or, maybe it's the old superstition that black cats bring bad luck. Throughout history, and in many cultures, though, black cats have been seen as lucky, sacred and protective creatures.



PONDER is a bit of a bad boy, but he loves to play and can also be quite affectionate.

Those of us lucky enough to share our lives with a black cat know how many good reasons there are to adopt one of these special felines. **Black cats are commonly known to be easygoing and good-natured. They are exceptionally loving and loyal companions and ask for so little in return.** They grace our homes with an air of mystery and elegance.

At first glance, it may appear that all black cats look alike, but they are as distinctive as any feline. The glossy fur of a black cat shimmers like no other when it catches the light. Black cats may be auburn shaded black, blue black or black with a few white highlights in their fur or spots on their tummies. Some may even have tabby markings. Some have short and sleek fur, while others may be longhaired with silky coats. The shining green, yellow or copper eyes of black cats stand out in gorgeous contrast to their dark fur.



ARTHUR AND ADAM
(and their sister Serena) are energetic teenagers who also stop to purr when you pick them up. They're beautiful and sleek -- your own mini-panthers!

Sadly, many black cats never get the opportunity to show people what wonderfully unique creatures they are. **At OAR, every adoption is a reason to celebrate, but we're especially excited when a black cat finds a loving home.** Currently available for adoption are the hilarious Hillary, who loves to drink water from the faucet and supervise volunteers at the rescue; the rakishly handsome BJ (Black Jack) who, after a rough life on the street, is looking to be pampered; enchanting Endora, a petite, affectionate beauty ready for a home of her own now that her kittens have left the nest; purry and playful Ponder; and sweet and sleek youngsters Adam and Arthur, among others.

Love knows no color, so if you or someone you know is in search of a new feline friend, why not adopt a black cat and bring some luck and love into your life and theirs?

WANT TO STAY INFORMED ON THE LATEST NEWS?

For the last year, we've been publishing a monthly e-newsletter. If you'd like to receive this, go to our homepage at <http://www.ohioalleycat.org/>, and enter your email address into the box at the bottom of the page and press the "Subscribe" button.



We also have a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/ohioalleycatfans/>. We post updates about adoptions, news about the clinic and announcements about events. "Like" OAR and keep up to date!

Helping Those Who Help Feral Cats

As many OAR volunteers know, TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and caring for a feral colony can be rewarding. It can also be challenging, whether you're a seasoned colony caretaker or new to feral cats. OAR is here to help with a variety of resources:

Training:

If you are new to trapping or would like to learn more about basic feral colony management, OAR offers a one-hour workshop that takes place at noon the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Learn trapping techniques and how to care for your colony. To reserve a space in an upcoming workshop, contact tnr@theanimalrescue.com

Equipment:

OAR has traps that may be borrowed 10 a.m.-noon daily at our facility. Each trap can be borrowed free of charge for a two-week period. Each piece of equipment requires a cash or check deposit that will be returned to you upon trap check-in before the end of the two-week period. Standard humane traps require a \$50 deposit; drop traps \$100; and cat carriers \$25. All monies will be deposited four weeks after checkout if equipment is not returned. All equipment must be returned cleaned and in working condition, or is subject to a fee.

Spay/Neuter Clinic:

OAR's clinic accepts feral cats for spay/neuter surgeries Tuesday-Friday. We do not require appointments for ferals, but do ask they be dropped off by 11 a.m. the day of the surgery. If you know you are trapping, it does help us if you can give us a call if you plan to be in the next day.

Feral Cat Housing:

We have several types of houses for feral cats. Insulated Feral Villas are available for \$65, fully assembled and ready for use in your colony. Through the generosity and ingenuity of an OAR volunteer, we also frequently have free shelters available made from Styrofoam containers. Straw is available for both. Pick up times are the same as for traps.



OTIS was found wandering in Anderson. He's a playful cat who loves people.

EVERSON is a playful boy who provided hours of amusement when he was at PetSmart. He'd love a home where there is someone to wrestle with.



CALLIE is from Oakley where she lost her home due to a death. She was rescued from the street with her brother Gerard and would love to go home with him.

GERARD can be a shy guy until he knows he can trust you. He'd love to go home with outgoing Callie.



Spay/Neuter Clinic Celebrates Milestone

OAR's Spay/Neuter Clinic recently assisted its 10,000th visitor – a beautiful feral cat named "Catch 22," the 22nd cat caught by a client dedicated to the trap-neuter-return philosophy of feral cat colony management on which OAR was founded. The clinic has helped to reduce cat overpopulation since opening in October 2008. Did you know:

***More than half of the cats were females, a quarter of which were in heat. Their surgery prevented thousands of unwanted kittens.**

***Almost one-quarter of the cats have been younger than reproductive age. OAR's message encouraging juvenile spay/neuter is being heard.**

***The clinic has spayed or neutered more than 1,500 feral cats.**

***More than 40 percent of our clients have received financial assistance and may not otherwise been able to afford surgery for their cats.**

***Our Neuterville Express transport service has served clients in 23 locations throughout Greater Cincinnati.**

***We have served clients in 23 counties. One client lived as far as 112 miles away.**

It truly takes a village to help all these cats and their caretakers. Many thanks to all of OAR's supporters and staff who made this exciting milestone possible.

The clinic observed World Rabies Day 2011 by offering free rabies vaccines, donated by Pfizer Animal Health, with surgery the week of Sept. 26. The clinic also continues to partner with the Scratching Post to offer vouchers reducing the cost of surgery for in-need clients. The following groups have also co-paid on some cats in low-income or needy situations: **Save Cats and Obliterate Animal Overpopulation (SCOOP), Wags N Whiskers, Purrfect Friends Ohio Pet Fund "POP" Program, Save the Animals Foundation (STAF) and Paws of Dearborn County, Ind.** Visit www.ohioalleycat.org for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We want to hear about community events where we can spread the word about OAR. Contact Charlotte at oar.outreach@gmail.com with what's coming up in your area.

Events take place at OAR, 5619 Orlando Place, unless otherwise noted. Questions? Contact info@ohioalleycat.org. New volunteers welcome!

2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month:

- Open Hours for prospective adopters, noon-2 p.m.
- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) workshop, noon. Contact tnr@ohioalleycat.org.

Last Monday of each month, TNR committee, 6:30 p.m.

If interested in helping with TNR, contact director@ohioalleycat.org.

Last Wednesday of each month, Adoption committee, 6:30 p.m. help promote our cats for adoption. If interested, contact Emily@ohioalleycat.org.

Oct. 15-16: OAR celebrates National Feral Cat Day, Open House Oct. 16, 1-4 p.m. To volunteer food and/or time, contact bjohnston@fuse.net, or 513-475-1771.

Oct. 22: Rusty Ball, 8 p.m.-midnight, Duke Energy Convention Center, downtown.

Petsmart Adoption Event, Nov. 11-13.

Dec. 11: Holiday open house, 1-4 p.m. To volunteer food and/or time, contact bjohnston@fuse.net, or 513-475-1771

Better with Age – Meet OAR's Senior Kitties

When searching for a new furry friend to add to the family, it's only natural for people to gravitate toward cute, tiny kittens. Senior cats, however, are at a disadvantage because most adopters tend to overlook them due to their age. Yet, these wonderful cats are just as sociable and loving as younger felines, and there are many advantages to opening your heart and home to them.

Adopting an older kitty means avoiding the crazy kitten phase, which, while fun and entertaining, can also be a lot of work. Senior cats are generally calm and easy to please. Because their personalities are already well established, you'll have a better idea of the temperament of the kitty you're adopting than with a kitten. They tend to be great snuggle buddies and make wonderful companions for seniors, empty-nesters and busy professionals concerned with what kitty might be up to while he or she is work. In addition, if you already have a cat or dog, introducing a mellow older kitty will be much less stressful to the resident pet than a playful kitten.

Many people are concerned about adopting a senior kitty because they don't want to become too attached to a cat that may not be in the best health. Important to remember is that a cat's age alone is not a measure of its health status. With regular vet visits, preventative care, a good diet and, of course, plenty of love, cats can remain healthy well into their late teens and 20s.

OAR currently has several special senior cats for adoption. **Phoebe**, who is front declawed, is a 12-year-old longhaired black beauty, who was rescued in Mt. Lookout. This bright-eyed girl is very loving and a total lap, but definitely prefers human companionship to that of other cats. Her cute, chirpy meow is sure to charm you. **Moonie** is a dignified and handsome 10-year-old Siamese mix with a gourmet palate, especially when it comes to seafood. He gets along well with other cats and would love a quiet home with a person who has a gentle touch.



PHOEBE would prefer a home where she is the only cat. She doesn't like to share her people!

Adorable **Veronica** is about 12-years-old and spent much of her early years outside the original OAR building. When we moved, we brought her inside and she seems happy. Veronica likes affection and will talk to you, but she also will let you know when she wants to be left alone. She gets along with other cats, but would be just as happy by herself with her own special person. Then there's **Dora**, our resident exotic beauty. Read more about this lovely senior in her "interview."

No matter what a cat's age, they deserve a fresh start in life and the chance to live out their remaining years in a loving, committed home. Please spread the word about OAR's "golden oldies" or consider adopting one of these special cats yourself. You will be richly rewarded with the love and devotion of a calm and cuddly kitty.



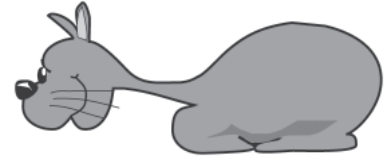
VERONICA likes affection and will talk to you, but she also will let you know when she wants to be left alone.

MOONIE is over 10 years old but still enjoys playing with a toy mouse! He has some health problems but is a sweet cat who would love a home.



Obesity and Healthy Weight Loss in Cats

Obesity is one of the most common health issues that veterinarians see in cats in the United States. As a population, we have become more obese. Unfortunately, we have allowed this to overflow to our pets.



The easiest way to keep your cat lean is by starting early with scheduled feedings and portion control. The average cat should weigh between 7 and 10 pounds depending on body structure. To maintain this weight, most cats need approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of dry cat food per day. By measuring the food with a measuring cup, you can control the portions easily without adding too much work to your day. Offer $\frac{1}{4}$ cup daily to create an appetite in your cat (I leave a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup measuring cup in my cat's food bag for ease of use.)

It is a common misnomer that cats are grazers and need food out all of the time. Give your cat 15 minutes to eat the portion, then put what is left back in the bag. At the next meal, offer $\frac{1}{4}$ cup again and give your cat 15 minutes to eat. If started early, most cats will adjust quickly to this feeding schedule and will typically eat all of the food in front of them right away.

If you have multiple cats, portion the food into separate bowls. If one of the cats is a bit more assertive and tries to eat the food from all the dishes, segregate that cat in a bathroom or laundry room until the 15 minutes is up. This will allow the less assertive cats to get their fill and more assertive cats to eat only their allotment.

If your cat is already overweight, weight loss needs to be a gradual process. Cats are quite prone to fatty liver syndrome. This occurs when the body thinks that it is starving and overcompensates to protect itself. The condition begins when the body sends extra fat to the liver to use as fuel. Cats are incredibly inefficient at processing fat, so this can lead to liver failure. This emphasizes the importance of starting a feeding routine early with your cat to prevent obesity.

When starting a diet for a cat, the first step is to decrease calories gradually. It is recommended to put your cat on a light diet first, using the same food the cat is used to. If your cat has become a grazer and food is always available, start by determining how much he/she is really eating. **This can be done by putting exactly what goes into the cat's bowl into a Ziploc baggie. When you add more food to the bowl, add more to the bag.** Over the course of a week, you should have a good idea of how many cups of food your cat has eaten. Make sure to include treats as well. If your cat eats canned food, keep track of the number of cans.

Now that you know how much your cat is eating over a week, cut the amount by 10 percent. Do this for a month. If all is going well with your cat, you can decrease the amount by another 10 percent. The goal is to get your cat eating the appropriate amount without losing weight too quickly. It is recommended that you work with your veterinarian, even if by phone, regarding portion changes and monthly weigh-ins. Depending on your starting point, it can take more than a year to get your cat to a healthy weight, but perseverance is worth the effort.

Obese cats are prone to many conditions including diabetes, heart and liver disease and arthritis and are at greater risk under anesthesia. Once these problems have started, weight loss may be inadvisable, so it is important to start your cat's weight loss program today. No matter what the size of your cat, it is never too early to talk to your veterinarian about proper diet, food recommendations, portion control and healthy weight.

Stephanie Foster
Veterinary Assistant, Kings Veterinary Hospital

Counting the Days...2012 Calendar

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos of their “fotogenic felines” for the 2012 OAR calendar. We received more than 140 submissions, and the calendar committee members enjoyed seeing every one of those fuzzy faces!

All of these cats are definitely prized by their families and the judges had a very difficult time selecting a first place photo for each month. The quality of the photography also impressed them. The judges received only the photo of each cat, identified by number, and the story (if any) that was sent with the photo. They did not know the name of the owner or the name of the cat, so the judging was on an anonymous basis. Photos were judged on alignment with the month’s theme (40%), overall charm and appeal (20%), creativity, originality (uniqueness) and impact of the photo (20%) and artistic quality (composition, lighting, balance, etc.) (20%).

Our judging panel worked tirelessly to select the photos that most closely met the criteria. Cincinnati Cats president John Korra, professional photographer Colleen Kelley, and OAR veterinarian Dr. Ingrid Shick reviewed each photo carefully. **Photos chosen as the “blue ribbon winners” are:**

Month	Theme	First Place Winner
January 2012	Party Animals	Mr. Fussy (Jones)
February	All You Need Is Love	Pyewacket & Roxie (Smith)
March	Luck of the Irish (Lucky Rescued Kitties)	Charlie (Crowe)
April	Spring Has Sprung	Sparta (Blankenship)
May	Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep	Purrcy (Markesbery)
June	Baby Face	Hope (Adams)
July	Senior Kitizens	Newton (Westrich)
August	Cat Days of August	ET (Adams)
September	Formerly Fierce Ferals	Tilda (Holtmeier)
October	Peek-a-BOO	Waffle (Skeene)
November	Let Us Give Thanks	BJ (Sisson)
December	Happy Holiday Kitties	Sophie (Fessel)
January 2013	New Year’s Resolutions	Bobby (Sisson)

Each month’s first-place winner will receive a free calendar.

Graphic design for the calendar was donated by volunteers Andrea Vetter and Bill Alletzhauser. Bill and Andrea spent hundreds of hours designing each month’s layout, noting holidays on specific dates and organizing as many photos as possible into a two-page collage. They have created a very attractive and professional calendar that is fun to look at and displays the cats purrfectly.

Calendars will be on sale for \$15 at OAR events, at the clinic and through the OAR web site. We also hope to have the calendars for sale at various community locations. Please check the OAR website for specific locations. “A Cat a Day Keeps the Blues Away” and lowers blood pressure, so keep your family and friends happy and healthy in the New Year by giving them all an OAR calendar! All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will support the OAR Spay/Neuter Clinic to cover the cost of surgeries for families otherwise unable to sterilize their pets or strays.

Many thanks to calendar committee members Sherry Blankenship, Sr. Eileen Connelly, Karole Moore, Kathy Schwartz and Barb Tuchfarber for bringing this calendar from concept to concrete!



An Interview with Dora, Resident Diva of OAR

The lovely Dora, one of our senior (she prefers to be called "mature") kitties in need of a home, graciously agreed to be interviewed for this issue of the newsletter. A Balinese mix, Dora has gorgeous markings, amazing blue eyes and opinions on just about everything!

Q: How did you end up at the rescue, Dora?

A: My story is quite dramatic, actually. I came here when my people were having a baby and decided my sister (already adopted) and I could no longer stay. Silly humans. I could have taught that child so much.

Q: Like what, Dora?

A: About the beauty that we find within and the need to be curious about everything. Also that everything is mine.

Q: So, does that mean you like children?

A: I find them to be fascinating little creatures and don't mind being around them. I do wish they were older and better able to worship me, though.

Q: How do you feel about being at OAR?

A: It's acceptable, for the most part. People here understand that I need to have my space and I enjoy the opportunity to engage in conversation with the volunteers. But, a home of my own would be nicer — a place where I could have couches and beds and other soft places to lounge anytime I wanted to.

Q: What do you like to converse about with people?

A: Besides ordering them to hurry up with the food and reminding them that everything is mine? I also like to tell them that all of us cats deserve respect and love, me more than most, and that given a chance, I'd be their best friend.

Q: What do you think of the other cats at the rescue?

A: The other cats? Hmmm. Most of them are not my equal, however one must make allowances. They certainly don't have the fine breeding that I do.

Q: Rumor has it that you're somewhat of a diva? What's your response to that?

A: Somewhat? My dear, I am a diva. I know I deserve the best. In addition, I can give you the best — the best love, the best companionship, the best purr.

Q: You've been able to slim down quite a bit during your stay at OAR. Can you say more about that?

A: Certainly. Once I was able to explore the rescue at my leisure, I was able to drop a few pounds. While no one would call me svelte now, I like to think that I've set a fine example for other solidly built felines who merely need a little incentive to firm up their figures.

Q: What would you say to people who might hesitate to adopt a more mature cat such as yourself?

A: Thank you for saying mature. Mature cats know what we enjoy and what we don't. We don't waste our time running around like crazy kittens. Our priorities are offering affection and companionship. Some people might say 12 is old, but really it's only middle age for a cat with a good constitution like me. Besides, I will give you the benefit of my years of experience. As you gaze into my slightly crossed eyes, you will see the wisdom residing within.

Q: What would you say are your best qualities?

A: Well, I am beautiful, but beauty is only skin deep. I think my best features are my curiosity and my willingness to talk and talk about anything and everything. Also, I'll allow you to rub my tummy which, as you know, many cats won't. It's quite a privilege.

Q: What do you want most in a forever home?

A: A lap is a must. I'd prefer to be the only feline so all attention would be focused on me, but would accept another cat if necessary. I'm mostly just looking for someone who will give me space when I need it and love all the time.

A Productive Partnership

More than 75 animal rescue groups work with OAR to find homes for cats and kittens, refer customers to our spay/neuter clinic or manage feral colonies throughout Greater Cincinnati. OAR is pleased to count among these the Kenton County Animal Shelter Supporters (KCASS), a group recently established to promote responsible pet ownership and provide financial support to the Kenton County Animal Shelter.

Realizing that the adoption rate at the shelter just couldn't keep up with the number of cats and kittens brought in daily, the group approached OAR last summer to help curb the county's cat overpopulation problem by initiating a spay/neuter program. Thanks to a large donation obtained by KCASS, OAR's Neuterville Express service has provided \$10 spay/neuter surgeries throughout Kenton County for more than 2,000 cats.

To continue the program, the groups worked together to apply and ultimately receive an \$80,000 PetSmart Charities grant, providing an additional 2,200 spays/neuters over the next two years. In addition to this collaboration, OAR has used its animal rescue networks to introduce KCASS volunteers to similar shelter-assistance groups in Northern Kentucky. These groups have shared information and are exploring additional projects that will further benefit area cats and those who care for them.



OAR Announces Holiday Card Contest

We're seeking students and creative youth in the area to use their artistic talents to design this year's Ohio Alleycat Resource holiday greeting card!

Just include a cat or cats as the subject of your holiday-themed card design in any format. Kids ages 5 to 18 are eligible to submit holiday card designs. The Grand Prize winner in the 12 to 18-year-old category will have their design featured on the OAR holiday card that gets mailed to thousands of our supporters. **The Grand Prize winner in the 5 to 11-year-old category will have their holiday greeting card available for sale to our OAR supporters.** There's no cost to enter and entries are due by Oct. 15. For more information, including an entry form, visit <http://www.neutervilleexpress.com/art-contest.html>.



IZZY zzy is a loud and playful kitten who loves attention!



MAUDE was adopted but came back due to allergies. We'd love to get this sweet girl back into a home.

ZELDA presents her belly to be rubbed -- if you dare!





Hannah: A Clinic Success Story

I never used to like cats. OK, that was a strong statement. I just never really thought about them. We had a farm cat when I was kid, but she mostly kept to herself and did her thing: keeping mice out of the barn.

For the past decade, I've seen many cats at the apartment complex where I live in Northern Kentucky. The manager is fine with them being there, and one of the residents ensures they're fed and gets them fixed. I started feeding them too about a year ago and found myself increasingly concerned about their welfare.

It wasn't until a beautiful little patched tabby cat came along, though, that I became a true cat convert. When I saw the little cat nearly get hit by a car, I knew I had to do something. I checked with the neighbors and no one seemed to know who she belonged to. The next morning, she was on my porch, so I fed her and the others. When I looked outside again, she was still there, so I opened the door to my apartment. She came right in and, within an hour, had taken over my home. I knew I had a cat – the most beautiful one I'd ever seen.

The following Monday at the office, I shared the news with a co-worker who volunteers at OAR. Before I knew it, I was calling the spay/neuter clinic to make an appointment to have the kitten, now named Hannah, fixed. I have to admit that I was initially very concerned at the prospect of leaving Hannah at the clinic overnight. That changed, though, when I dropped her off. The OAR clinic staff was so professional and compassionate that they immediately put my mind at ease. I was amazed to see the hall lined with cat carriers and to see the clinic run so efficiently. And, of course, you can't beat the price. Hannah got the works – her surgery, shots, flea treatment and testing. I learned she was about 6 months old and had been in heat.

That evening was tough at home without Hannah, but I knew she was in good hands. When I picked her up the next morning, I was again impressed with how the clinic is run and how caring everyone is. I'm so grateful to have found a team of people that care so much about cats and do so much for them and the local community.

That was in June, and Hannah is still doing great. She has been such a gift to me, especially because she came along during a very difficult time at work. She's so easy to take care of and a lot of fun. I'm so thankful to have Hannah in my life and to know about the wonderful work OAR does. My co-worker now teases me about being a "cat guy." It's true.

Greg Hartman

JOIN AT THE RUSTY BALL ON OCTOBER 22ND

OAR again is a beneficiary of the Rusty Ball featuring the Rusty Griswolds band, Oct. 22, downtown. This event, held at the Duke Energy Convention Center, sells out quickly.

OAR has a limited number of tickets available at \$60 (covers admission only) and \$75 (includes four tickets for beer/wine/soda/water).

Contact rustyball@ohioalleycat.org or 513-871-0185 if you are interested in purchasing directly from OAR.

If buying tickets through www.therustyball.com (\$60-\$85), be sure to designate OAR as your beneficiary. (The \$85 price includes four tickets for liquor/beer/wine/soda/water.)

CHANEL is a sweet cat who is very sedate. She'd love a home of her own where she could cuddle with another cat and a special person.



OHIO ALLEYCAT RESOURCE RAFFLE

P.O. Box 9206 Cincinnati, OH 45209 • 871-PAWS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Basket # _____

You choose
your prize!

Donation:
\$2 each or 6
tickets for \$10

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time. **You do not need to be present to win.**

OHIO ALLEYCAT RESOURCE RAFFLE

P.O. Box 9206 Cincinnati, OH 45209 • 871-PAWS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Basket # _____

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tickets for \$10

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time. **You do not need to be present to win.**

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Save the Date *.....*

February 25, 2012

2012 A'CAT'EMY AWARDS EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, Feb. 25 • 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. The Gardens, Park Hills, Ky., conveniently located off I71/I75, just minutes from downtown

Guest Emcee Fox 19 Meteorologist Katy Morgan

Red Carpet Entrance * Gourmet Dinner * Silent Auction * Live Auction

OAR is currently seeking business and individual event sponsorships (\$250-\$2500). Please contact OARawards@ohioalleycat.org for more details. Gift certificates (restaurant, department store, theater, local attractions, spa/massage) also gratefully accepted. All event proceeds will benefit OAR's adoption, spay/neuter, and feral resource center programs. Watch for updates and reserve a seat at our A'cat'emy Awards page at www.ohioalleycat.org.



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