



December 2009,

Dear Members and Friends,

It is a bleak Monday morning and I'm almost wishing it were summer. I say "almost" because this summer was a very difficult time. We wound up with many kittens and young adults. Due to the recession, so many cats have lost their homes. The shelters are all full. The cats that make it that far are the lucky ones. It is the poor pets that are abandoned or "taken for a ride" that really have it tough. We are doing our best, but they just keep showing up.

Food has become a major problem for us. We used to get donated food, but that has pretty much stopped. Thank God for members who have donated food as well as monetary donations. We could not continue to operate without you.

### **Many Thanks!**

There are some people who have really helped us with this issue. I didn't have the money for food and didn't know what to do. **Jean Smith**, who heads the Paws and Claws group, once again came to my rescue. She met with me at PetSmart and donated a carload of food to us. It was like Christmas in November. Jean has also taken care of our spay/neuter program. She funds our medical bills and Willingboro Veterinary Clinic is working with us to get the job done. This is not the first time Jean has come to my rescue. She is always there when we really need help. To say "thank you, Jean" seems inadequate, but it comes from the heart.

**Judy Hammel**, one of our volunteers, has taken on the job of fund raising. She designed a large container for cat food donations and got permission from **Murphy's Market** in Tabernacle to put it in their foyer. It is in a corner by the door as you go out of the store. Shoppers put canned and dry cat food in it for us and it is a great help. Thank you, Judy, for the idea and thanks to **Mr. Murphy** for allowing us the space.

**Tom and Sally Lynch** are former customers of my pet sitting service. They moved to Long Beach Island a year ago, but they never forgot us. Every month, we receive a Gift Certificate to PetSmart and a note. I really miss them and their pets, but they are still here for me as they said they would be. Thanks, Sally and Tom.

**Sally Drummond** donates to us on a monthly basis. Sally is doing some rescue herself so she is into the same rescue routine and understands how difficult it is.

**Phyllis Kymer** asked my veterinarian if they knew of anyone who really needed help. They gave her my name and she routinely donates food and litter.

We have one “**Godfather**” to the kitties who wishes to remain anonymous. (He knows who he is) I can ask him when I don't know where to turn and he never refuses me. Our undying gratitude to this wonderful man.

I also thank **Ruth Dyer** for her help with her computer skills and her devotion to The Cat Camp.

I want to thank every one of you for everything you do for us. No donation is too small and I realize in this day and age how difficult it is. Thank you one and all.

### **Helpful hints:**

Frequently, I get calls from people who have cats with litter box problems. Charlotte, who runs a very successful shelter, told me about a special cat litter that solves this problem. She said she never turns away a cat with a litter problem, and always has success retraining them. The litter is called Cat Attract, made by Dr. Elsey. It can be purchased at PetSmart and **it works!**

I had a cat I had rescued and had it in a cage. He was so frightened, he insisted on sleeping in his litterbox. We tried everything to no avail. I changed the litter we were using and **filled** his box with Cat Attract. He now uses his box to eliminate and sleeps on his perch or bed.

You get an informative booklet in the bag of litter and it is really great. It addresses many problems. Here are a few tips from the booklet.

A problem cat is one who chooses not to use its litter box. There are three likely causes. Medical ailments, territorial marking and behavioral.

Knowing which category your cat fits into is only one step toward solving the problem. Cats are creatures of habit and will repeatedly soil the same spot.

**Medical concerns:** Only one sixth of cats with urinary problems go outside the box. However, blood in the urine, increased frequency of urination, small hard stools or loose bowel movements are signs of medical problems. See your veterinarian!

**Territorial Marking:** Spraying or marking territory with urine is a natural behavior for both male and female cats. It is a form of communication and should not be confused with ordinary urination outside the box. A cat will sniff prior to spraying and only a small amount of urine will be left. The cat will not turn around to sniff and paw at the area as in normal urination, but will just walk away. The cat has marked his territory. You can create a friendly zone using your cat's own pheromones or by using **Feliway Spray**, which can also be purchased at PetSmart. To use your cat's own pheromones, rub a soft cloth on the side of your cat's face between the eye and the ear. Wipe that cloth over the area that is being soiled. Repeat for a few weeks. This tells you cat it is a friendly zone and diminishes the need to mark this area. You can also place a scratching post in the area and the cat will use the pads of its feet to mark with its scent and not spray urine.

**Stress:** Feline interstitial cystitis is a painful urinary tract disease. Symptoms may come and go. This can cause litter box aversion. Other stress related diseases are urinary stones, obesity, tooth decay pain, type two diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, heart disease, excessive self grooming, dogs or loud unruly children. Your veterinarian can help diagnose the problem.

Senior cats may need a ramp to make it easier to get into the box. **Precious Cat Senior Litter** helps the senior cat to keep himself clean.

**Neuter your cat.** Neutering minimizes a variety of behavioral problems in both male and female cats.

I hope this information has helped you. If you have any questions, feel free to call me and I will try to help you.

### **Cats for adoption**

We have quite a few young cats that need homes. Everybody wants a kitten, but within 6 months they are almost full sized and your adult cats will stay loving and playful if you take the time to cuddle and play with them. So please consider giving one of our cats a home of its own for Christmas.

## **Pet Sitting Services**

Please remember our Pet Sitting Service. We sit in your home for all domestic animals. We are bonded and insured and belong to the NAPPS assoc.

We spend time with your pet and will also take in your mail and water your plants. Our service is our main source of funding for our rescue. It has been tough since the recession. People are losing their jobs and not traveling as usual. We cover Medford, Marlton and all surrounding areas.

**Please call The Cat Camp Pet Sitting Service at: 609-268-5930, 609-268-3299 or 609-472-9671.**

**Can you help?** Once again I have to ask for your support. Winter is a slow time for the pet sitting but the kitties still have to eat. We have 4 areas where we have feeding stations. Tom Price's area alone produced three litters of kittens and two feline aids positive cats,

To those of you who have helped us this year, I thank you. No donation is too small and it is greatly appreciated. We cannot survive without you.

Please give the kitties a Merry Christmas and we in turn wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous New year.

### **Wish List:**

Canned cat food  
Litter  
Donations  
Weight circles from bags of Purina dry cat food

Dry cat food  
Gift card



Please help us to help them!

PS: Those of you, who help outdoor cats, remember to use straw for their bedding in their houses. Cloth gets wet and cold. Give them plenty of food and fresh water. God bless you for caring for them.

*Andrea Price* and the kitties

