

The Feline Forum



August/September 2011

CARING FOR HOMELESS CATS SINCE 1988

Foster Families Give Cats a Chance



Sasha Fierce came to Cat Welfare on June 12th and was immediately taken to MedVet because someone had seen her get hit by a car, and it was obvious that there was damage to her back legs. The veterinary staff at MedVet discovered the femur on her rear right leg was fractured, as was the femoral head of her left leg. The kitten was given pain medication and brought back to the shelter so Dr. Nelson of Oak Creek Veterinary Hospital could evaluate her for surgery.

Dr. Nelson felt confident in his ability to help her, and surgery was performed to place pins in her tiny legs to help her bones fuse back together. The surgery took nearly three hours, and little Sasha Fierce was kept at the practice for evaluation for 24 hours. Upon her return to Cat Welfare, she was placed in the home of loving foster parents RoseAnn Ballangee and Nancy Flanagan. They cleaned her up

after every trip to the litter box until she was strong enough to go without trouble, and they have been rewarded with a happy kitten who loves to be petted and held and will happily lounge on the couch to watch TV in the evenings. The spunky, sweet Sasha is expected to be available for adoption sometime in August.

Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent for kittens and cats like Sasha Fierce who need some extra care before they're ready for adoption? Cat Welfare will hold a meeting for potential foster families from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, August 25, at Panera Bread, 4519 N. High St. in Clintonville.

The meeting will provide more information about the program, as well as training for existing foster families.

For more information, contact Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103.

Cat Caper 5K

The 2011 Cat Caper 5K is right around the corner! Runners from all over Central Ohio will meet for the 9 a.m. race on Sunday, September 25, at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence at 470 Glenmont Ave. in Clintonville. Registration starts at 7 a.m., with a Kids Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. The USA Track & Field-approved course will be timed using MyLaps timing chips in the race bibs, with a raffle and pancake breakfast to follow. Cat Nappers who prefer to say in bed that morning can make a donation, which entitles them to a T-shirt and a bag of goodies, just like the ones the runners will get. More details, including online registration, can be found at www.catcaper.org.

For general race questions and information regarding raffle donation opportunities, contact Laura Modisette, Cat Caper Chair, at catcaper2011@gmail.com or Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103.

Presenting Sponsor:

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Upcoming Events:

8/16 - Membership Meeting

8/25 - Foster Meeting

9/20 - Board Meeting

9/25 - Cat Caper 5K

Our Mission



Cat Welfare Association is dedicated to the care of and education about cats and kittens. Our pledge is to cherish, nurture and provide veterinary care for homeless, abused, injured and abandoned felines. We strive to find each cat an appropriate, safe and loving home, allowing those not placed to live their lives in the care and comfort of our shelter.

741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214

614-268-6096

www.catwelfareohio.com
cwashelter@sbcglobal.net

A 501c3 non-profit organization.

Monday & Thursday through Sunday

11 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Closed the first Thursday of each month and all major holidays)

The adoption fee of \$80 for adult cats and kittens includes spay/neuter surgery, initial vaccinations, testing for feline leukemia and FIV, microchip identification, flea treatment & deworming. The shelter has established an Altering Fund to subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for cat owners with limited incomes. Contact 614-268-6096 for an application.



Chuck Wolfe, Executive Director

Current Board of Directors:

Sheila Zirkle, President

Paul Calderone, Vice President

Brenda Martin, Recording Secretary

Kathryn Hart, Corresponding Secretary

Carol Smith, Treasurer

Cathi Easley • Penny Ellis

Nancy Flanagan • Sue Godsey

Peggy Kirk • Erica Kittleson

Laura Modisette • Lisa Wolfe

A Letter from Our Director

America is a nation of volunteers and in my experience it's our volunteer spirit that makes us great. Here at Cat Welfare the volunteer spirit is strong. In fact, I'd like to give a round of applause to all our past and present volunteers. We appreciate your help and energy. There are many volunteers who perform many important tasks. Cat Welfare volunteers help in the Catique, serve as members of the Board of Directors, and assist with activities like the Open House, Cat Caper, Feline Wine & Dine and many other Cat Welfare events. We have volunteers who assist our shelter staff daily, helping to make us a better shelter. We are truly thankful for everyone who helps in our mission of serving cats and serving the community.

Committees, such as the recently formed Foster Care Committee and an Adoption Promotion Committee, are in need of volunteers. We are searching for a few good volunteers for all committees and events. Since we are starting to grow in so many ways, we need more Cat Welfare friends to volunteer in all areas. I know everyone is very busy with families, jobs and other commitments. Also, I know many people may be in some sort of life transition, which makes it difficult to raise a hand and volunteer. For those Cat Welfare friends who can and want to help, we have many opportunities. By volunteering you can learn new skills, meet new people, bond with the cats, and give service to Cat Welfare and the community. Volunteering provides an opportunity to give one's self a sense of personal fulfillment.

You can volunteer for a one-time task or a long period of time. Any volunteer time on your part is greatly appreciated. Many skills are needed, from cat care to event organizing, working in the Catique to fundraising and much more.

As always, I am available to meet with anyone about any suggestions, concerns or questions you may have about Cat Welfare. You can reach me on my cell phone at 614-420-5245, the Cat Welfare office at 614-268-6096, Ext. 101, or by e-mail at cwolfe@catwelfareohio.com.

Chuck

Planned Giving Benefits Donors, Cat Welfare

Cat Welfare has been blessed by many gifts from many people. We appreciate all gifts of all types, in-kind gifts, cash donations for designated or undesignated projects, and donated volunteer time. These gifts have kept Cat Welfare a strong and viable organization for 66 years. Planned giving is one way to help sustain Cat Welfare by providing the needed resources for the present and future. Through planned gifts, many individuals have ensured Cat Welfare will continue its service to cats and the community.

Planned giving is a method of supporting non-profits and charities that enables philanthropic donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax-planning techniques to provide for a charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate. Thus, by definition, a planned gift is any major gift, made in someone's lifetime or at death as part of the donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

Whether a person uses cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc., the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both the donor and charity.

Should you desire more information on any type of planned giving, contact Chuck Wolfe, Executive Director, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 101.

New Staff

Cat Welfare has welcomed several new and dedicated staff members. Brittany Kintz is in school to earn her veterinary technician's license and is working under Mary Hope as Assistant Vet Technician. Mohammed Al Waeth has a veterinary degree from Iraq and is working part-time for the shelter because of his great fondness for the cats and our staff. Rebecca Stafford has joined as a part-time Animal Care Technician. Make sure to greet them the next time you're in the shelter!

News from the Board

At the June meeting of Cat Welfare's Board of Directors, Todd Brown of Citizens' Wealth spoke about budget and financial strategies for our shelter. This was followed by a discussion about bequests, estates, fundraising, charitable giving and donations.

Work on the budget for 2012 is underway.

The Board's next focus will be on the repair and upgrading of the phone system so that customer service can be enhanced.

The parking lot has been sealed and more parking spaces created.

Catque sales continue to be brisk. Tax deductible donations of merchandise are always welcome.

Strategies are being devised to increase the adoption of our kitties.

The Board meets every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please check www.catwelfareohio.com or contact the shelter for the location, as it may be changing. No meeting will be held in August so the Board can attend the annual membership meeting (see Page 6). All who are interested in helping promote the mission of Cat Welfare and learning about items of current interest are welcome to attend these meetings.

For more information, contact Chuck Wolfe, Executive Director, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 101.

Petfinder Matches Cats with Forever Homes

Volunteers Julie Karovics and Linda Schellkopf began their work to put Cat Welfare's kitties on Petfinder in June 2010. They hoped that increasing the visibility of the shelter cats would result in more adoptions—and it has! They started relatively small, featuring only adoptable 20 cats, but as the program has seen some success, they have slowly increased the number to between 45 and 60.

Julie and Linda have received many positive comments about the Petfinder portion of www.catwelfareohio.com, which can be found at the bottom of the home page. Many visitors have even reported "shopping" online before making the trip to the shelter or explained that stumbling upon one of our cats on www.petfinder.com brought them into the shelter for a visit. Some potential adopters even arrive with printouts and lists of the cats they want to meet. An average of 12 Cat Welfare cats posted on Petfinder get adopted every month, which keeps Julie and Linda busy adding new kitty faces to the list!

Here are some interesting Petfinder statistics as of June 2011:

- New cats added in June 2011: 20
- Total cats posted since June 2010: 220
- Petfinder posted cats adopted in June 2011: 6
- Total Petfinder posted cats adopted this year: 145

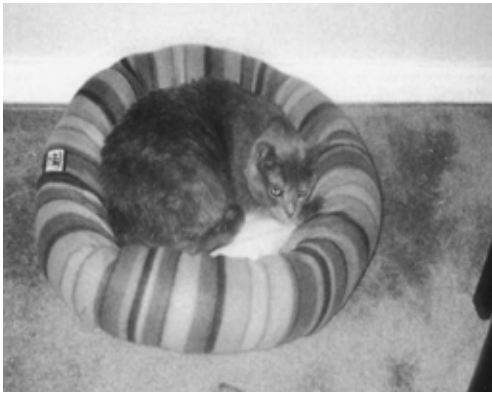
For more information about the Petfinder program, contact Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103.



Cali (top left) and Serena (top right) are currently on Petfinder, waiting for adoption. Rascal (bottom) was adopted by a family who first saw him on Petfinder.

Happy Homes for CWA Cats

Bella



Hi, my name is Bella. When I was at Cat Welfare my name was Janet, but when my new Mom took me home last July, she decided to give me a new name. It suits me better because I'm so pretty!

Right away I took to the litter box, and Mom is really happy about that. She keeps my litter box really clean, so that works out well for both of us. I don't damage or destroy anything, and I don't scratch furniture. I'm also not a lap cat, and I don't like being picked up, but I like being petted once in awhile. I love to rub my neck and face against Mom's hand and leg. She has lots of cat toys for me, but I usually just like to sleep and sometimes watch TV.

I pick different places to sleep—the kitchen floor, sometimes the sofa or window ledge. I miss all my kitty friends, and I hope they find happy homes real soon!

Adopted by: Karen Mendenhall

Send your "Happy Homes" photo(s) and short story (200 words or less, if possible) to "Happy Homes," c/o Cat Welfare, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214, or online at catwelfarecats@yahoo.com. View these and many more "Happy Homes" stories on our website: www.catwelfareohio.com.

Virgil



I just wanted to write and tell you how well Virgil is doing. I adopted Virgil in September 2010. I had seen his picture on Petfinder and he seemed to be just the kind of cat I like—independent, large build and an extra furry coat. The first time I came to see him at Cat Welfare, he was very grumpy and growled and hissed at me whenever I tried to get close to him. I came back a few weeks later to take a cat home, and that time he was so sweet! He rubbed his head against my legs and followed me around. I knew that he was a good boy at heart and that he was the one for me.

Now he is a joy to have at home. He's very talkative and wants to make sure that I realize when it's time for his breakfast. He loves to sit on my chest in the evenings when I watch TV and curl up with me in bed when I'm reading. He also has a new love for laser pointers. I can tell that he loves having his own home with his own food bowl and his own bed. I also got him a new kitten friend, Toofie, and he is slowly warming up to her. So, thank you so much CWA! Virgil and I are so happy to have found each other.

Adopted by: Kelly Kranjc

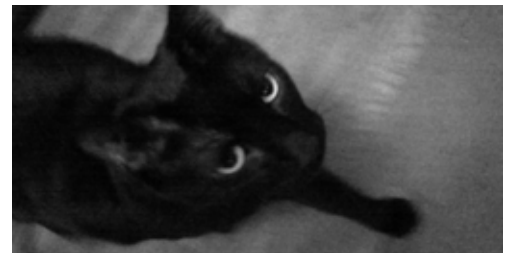
Chaunticlaire



I'm so excited to show you my spoiled baby, Chaunticlaire or Chauncey, who was called Frank when he was at the shelter. He's my big boy. In this picture he's in his play room, which is painted pink! I just wanted you to see how beautiful and spoiled he is and how much he's adored.

Adopted by: Susan Lee

Tiago



Hi, I'm Tiago, and I wanted to say thank you to Cat Welfare for taking good care of me until I found some humans. I found them on August 8, 2010, and now I have a new home. I have the run of the place. I spent half a day getting used to everything, but now I demand to be petted and have my belly rubbed as much as I can.

I was given away because supposedly I had trouble using my litter box, but fact is I haven't had any issues in my new home! My humans, Penny Clifford and Michael Reed, take awesome care of me. I hope all my old buddies get new homes soon. Now I've got to get my belly rubbed some more. See ya!

Adopted by: Penny Clifford & Michael Reed

Honor Your Vet



Has your vet gone above and beyond for your beloved pets? Honor that special care by adding him or her to Cat Welfare's Veterinary Circle of Support. For \$25, a 20-word dedication will be posted on the Cat Caper 5K website, www.catcaper.org, and included on a poster to be displayed on race day, September 25. Send your donation and dedication to Cat Welfare, Attn. Circle of Support, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

Thank You

Cat Welfare would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Therese Allen for her seven years of dedication and care to our shelter and all the kitties. We also wish to welcome Dr. Pam Willis from Cats Only Veterinary Clinic and Dr. Jack Custer from Fifth and Kenny Animal Hospital, who will serve on our newly created Veterinary Advisory Board.

Donate via Community Shares

Community Shares of Mid Ohio allows employees of participating organizations throughout Central Ohio to donate to any of 60 nonprofit causes via a payroll deduction program.

Participating agencies include community-based, volunteer-led nonprofits that prevent family, school and neighborhood violence, homelessness and hunger, child abuse and neglect, and environmental devastation; protect civil and human rights; and increase adult and children's literacy, healthful living, safety and social justice. Thanks to Community Shares, Cat Welfare received donations totaling \$70,877 last year, the most of any organization in the program.

If your employer participates in Community Shares, please remember our kitties when you are filling out your forms and encourage your family and friends to do the same. If your workplace does not include Community Shares, ask your campaign coordinator how you can make a gift through donor option.

For more information, contact Community Shares at 614-262-1176, office@communityshares.net, or online at www.communityshares.net.

Goodbye, Alice

The first time I met Alice, I was sitting on the floor in the middle of the sun porch, enjoying the affections of several kitties, all vying for a position on my lap. I was doing my best to make sure that everyone got as much "scratches & lovin's" as my two hands could dole out when I saw the most interesting kitty I had ever seen. She had a most prominent brow and forehead, the way you might expect a cat from ancient Egypt to look. I extended my hand to greet her. She was very shy but also very curious. I did my best to encourage Alice to trust me, and once she did, she made sure she was first in line for "lap time." She was so full of love, affection, innocence and goodness. It was impossible to look into her eyes and not feel loved. Alice also had another wonderfully endearing quirk: her tail puffed up when she was happy, especially when you picked her up and cuddled her. Sadly, we learned that her most endearing feature, her prominent brow, was actually a tumor. Like many ailments, she was doing OK with it until one day, she wasn't. I learned of her passing on the day of Jumpy's farewell party. It was a day of mixed blessings for me. Jumpy was finally going home, but I guess you could say Alice went home, too, to a place where there's no more suffering, only peaceful meadows filled with sunshine and catnip. All that is left to say is farewell, sweet Alice. Enjoy your wonderland, and rest assured that you will live on in our hearts. Say hello to Reba, Ruthie, Jeni, George and all the rest who have gone before you.

Written by: Larry Kingera

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Pet Members Wear it With Pride!

If your pet has joined Cat Welfare since October 2010, a special gift is coming in the mail soon. Heart shaped "I love Cat Welfare" collar tags are being provided to every "fur-person" on our membership list. Your dog or cat will be the envy of the neighborhood.

A special thank you to Brenda Doner from the Membership and Volunteer Outreach Committee. Brenda not only found a vendor for us, but she has personally funded the cost of these collar tags.

Cat Welfare Volunteers Make All the Difference

Volunteer Form

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

I am interested in volunteering on these committees:

- Finance Foster Care Adoption
 Fundraising Building & Grounds
 Membership & Volunteer Outreach

Mail this form to Cat Welfare, Attn. Gail Harbert, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

Cat Welfare has a dedicated staff and Board of Directors, but we wouldn't be here, doing everything we do in the community, without our volunteers. Our current crew of 130 active volunteers do everything from socializing and grooming the cats to cleaning cages, working at events, and serving on committees. Special skills, such as building maintenance or computer expertise, are always needed, too! Are you ready to join us?

All volunteers must attend a one-hour orientation that explains all available opportunities, requirements and shelter guidelines. Upcoming orientations are planned for 6 p.m. August 31, September 28 and October 26 at the shelter. Children are welcome to help out, but volunteers younger than 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Of particular need right now are volunteers to serve on our committees. Each committee meets monthly and does important work to support the shelter. Businesses are also welcome to pitch in with sponsorships, donation matching or getting a team together for a company-sponsored corporate volunteer day.

For more information about any of these opportunities or to RSVP for a volunteer orientation meeting, contact Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103, or e-mail her at cwavolunteers@gmail.com.

All Invited to Annual Membership Meeting 8/16

This year's annual membership meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16, at Villa Angela Care Facility, 5700 Karl Road, Columbus, OH 43229. Those in attendance can enjoy some light refreshments and a chance to meet Chuck Wolfe, Cat Welfare's Executive Director, and the Board of Directors beginning at 6 p.m. The presentation of this year's annual report will begin at 6:45 p.m.

An RSVP is appreciated for the membership meeting. To reserve your place or get more information about membership, contact Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103, or send an e-mail to teamcatwelfare@gmail.com.

Last year the Board of Directors set a goal for a 20% increase of membership in 2011. Thanks to YOU, we've already accomplished that goal, reaching 1,310 members as of June 18. But we're not done yet! Our EACH ONE, REACH ONE Membership Drive goal is to double our membership to 2,173 in 2011, and we can do that with your help! If you are not a member, please join now. Membership levels are \$5 for a pet, \$10 senior citizen, \$25 individual, \$50 family, \$100 patron, and \$250 for lifetime membership. Members receive a subscription to the *Feline Forum*, voting rights for Board elections after one year, and discounts on some events.



Payment may be made online via PayPal at www.catwelfareohio.com/onlinedonate.htm or by mailing a check with your request to Cat Welfare, Attn. Membership Drive, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

If you are already a member, ask one friend or family member to join Cat Welfare, or a gift membership for a pet lover in your life.

Ishie Memorial Fund

for care of long-term shelter residents

Chad Reed
Richard Austin
Marley Myers, "Happy Birthday Marley"
Catherine Zitko, "From Cathe & Sweet Pea—thank you!"
John & Nancy Sue Irwin
Beth Puleo, "In memory of Henry—Joyce Lynn's beloved boy"
Joan Borger
Greg Denby, "In care of Emily"
Melanie Mees, "In loving memory of my baby, Muffin"
Connie Coultrap, "Charlie Chan"
Agnes Jennings, "In memory of my beloved 18 year old Siamese little boy,
Sydney Cheresse Jennings"
Alice Kimbell
Sue Lape, "In memory of Gordon Wilson"
Mary Beth Snapp, "In memory of Jon Grosshart"
Shirley Jones, "In memory of Robert Ray Jones"

Run an Ad in the *Feline Forum*

Reach 4,000 people with your business ad, celebration announcement or memorial tribute. Cat Welfare will be offering limited advertising space for business-card-sized ads in upcoming newsletters. Ads must be camera ready. Rates: \$35 for a one-time ad; \$60, two times; \$75, three times.

For more information or to claim your space, contact Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103.

Joey's Good Samaritan Fund

financial assistance for owned cats in need of medical care

Mary Jane Ryan, Susan Depasquale, Frank Eck, Susan & Steve Reeser

Willard's Village Babies Fund

for spay/neuter of feral cats & to assist feral cat caretakers

Holly Wagner, Katherine Shaffer, Anne Riley & Blue, Wilma Wabnitz, Robert Chapman, Richard Austin

Vincent Fund

for emergency care for shelter cats

Carol Fuller, Mary Popowski, Anna Teichmoeller, Victoria Bonner, Ed & Marti Foster, Carl & Joyce Rybak, Judy Hardy, Fred Fisher, RoseAnn Ballangee, Michael Gleason, Sue Lape

Travis Fund

for spaying/neutering kittens

Debra & Lee Martin

Cat-A-Lack Chow Club

for food for the shelter kitties

Phillip Gilliland, Gretchen Petrucci, Richard & Frances Stroup, Lorie Wozniak, Marilyn Roth, John & Susan Koehler, J.H. Liberatore, Jack Johnson

Altering Fund

to subsidize low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for cats of low-income families

Josh Obermiller, Carol Daniels, Mary Jane Ryan, Ruth Ann Farthing, Ann Browning-Shaw, Jane Carolyn Reeves, Frank Eck, Sandra Woolard, Morgan & Maureen Lewis, Deborah Dunham, Linda Oberberger

Important Shelter Information

From January through June 2011, we **adopted 318 cats** into loving homes and **subsidized 1,269 spay and neuter surgeries** through our various Altering Fund programs.

Interested in volunteering for Cat Welfare? Call or mail your name and contact information to the shelter, or send a message to Gail Harbert, Program Manager, at cwvolunteers@gmail.com or call her at 614-268-6096, Ext. 103.

Shelter Wish List:

Purina Cat Chow, Kitten Chow, moist cat food (non-fish flavors), brown paper grocery bags, Windex, clean newspapers, clean towels, clay litter, dryer sheets, bleach, liquid dishwashing soap, Clorox wipes, Mr. Clean Magic Eraser pads, laundry detergent, stainless steel Chore Boy scrubbies, and Mr. Clean with Febreze.

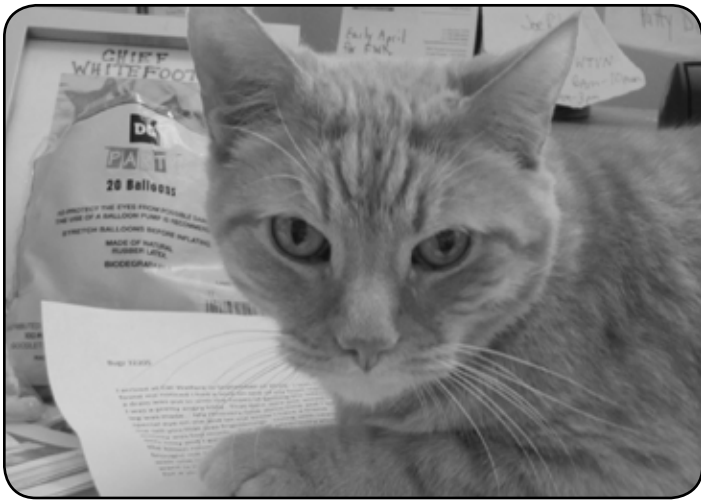
Cat Welfare would like to thank:

Terita's Pizza for donating eight pizzas for our Volunteer Appreciation Party. Delicious! Order yours at www.teritas.com.

Elizabeth Bowling and Sharon Warrington for creating an amazing quilt that was raffled to raised money for our kitties. The raffle brought in just over \$2,000! We also want to congratulate the quilt winner, Jill Auxer!

Judy Hicks for the much loved cookies.

Mrs. Benson for all of the tuna she donates.



We make friendships for life!

My name is Bugz, and I arrived at Cat Welfare in September of 2010 with a sore on one of my front legs. A staff member took me to the veterinarian and a drain was put in with the hopes of getting the infection out. The whole thing was painful, and I was a pretty angry kitty. That darn sore just would not heal, so eventually they decided to remove my entire right leg. My recovery took some time, and I am grateful that a special staff member, Cindy, kept a special eye on me and let me know I have a friend. Once I got all better, I became a floor cat. Let me tell you, that was frightening! Living with nearly

90 other kitties in one room and non-stop activity was too much. The staff generously allowed me a quiet space in their break room. I was the only kitty in there, and I gained enough confidence to start asking for attention. Then the break room became the kitten room, and the commotion returned to my life. Still with my best interest in her heart, Cindy brought me to my current shelter space, the south end offices. I love it down here! I share the space with one other kitty and three quiet people who tell me they love me. I love them, too, but what I really want is a forever home. I'm a 6-year-old, fully vaccinated, neutered and handicapable cat. Come on in for a visit and let me win your heart.

Cat Welfare has nearly 300 cats available for adoption. Find your new feline friend by visiting www.catwelfareohio.com or stopping by our shelter. The kitties would be happy to see you!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Incorporated Under Law: As a non-profit, charitable organization

www.catwelfareohio.com

Columbus, OH 43214

741 Wetmore Road



August/September 2011

The Feline Forum

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