

Happy Hearts Feline Rescue

Giving Cats and Kittens a Second Chance for a Loving Forever Home

2019 Statistics

Intakes: 50

Adoptions: 51

2020 Statistics to date

Intakes: 8

Adoptions: 10



Featured Cats

PetFinder: [hhfr.petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com/hhfr)



Mogi Bear



Chelsea



Teddy

Note from the President

Hello again, everyone. I'd like to once again thank all our supporters, volunteers, adopters, and board members on helping Happy Hearts Feline Rescue take care of our shelter residents and help rehome 51 cats last year.

The board of Happy Hearts and myself hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that many people are having economic hardships due to this pandemic. Charitable organizations, like many for-profit businesses, are facing similar hardships due to this pandemic.

During Gov. Whitmer's "Stay-at-home" order, Happy Hearts has temporarily stopped adoptions. However, our cats and kittens are still being cared for by our shelter manager, our committed and caring volunteers, and our great veterinarians. While we know many people are tight on funds, the cost of caring for our residents (especially medical) does not stop. In March, Happy Hearts donations were down 50%. With decreased donations and no funds from adoptions, we are asking you to find a little to donate to help our kitties. Any amount will help.

The **CARES** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act has created a new above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemizer deduction applying to all taxpayers) for total charitable **CASH** contributions of up to \$300. The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year. The law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. Please consider donating even in these hard times. Please stay healthy and stay safe.

Phillip C. Johnson, President

Shelter Resident Spotlight by Jeanne Spencer

Moustachio – a Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) story

On Saturday, January 25, little Moustachio fell out of the lowest seat of our cat tower and stumbled to his little bed. I questioned myself, “did he just catch his claw on the carpeting or is something really wrong.” So I picked Moustachio up and carried him down the hall, put him down and watched him stagger his way down the hallway. At the end of the hall, without the support of the wall, he fell over. I hoped for an ear infection. I picked him up again to take his temp. and look in his ears. His ears looked good and he had a normal temp, so off to emergency vet we went.



The emergency vet found nothing upon examination and thought maybe it was an infection. They admitted him for 48 hours for fluids, antibiotics, and observation. After this time, they suggested going to Dogwood, a neurology specialist, in Farmington. The Dogwood vets diagnosed him with neurologic FIP. FIP is a virus that infects white blood cells and causes intense inflammation around vessels in the tissues where these infected cells are located, often in the abdomen, kidney, or brain. FIP is infectious, but not contagious, has 100% mortality rate, virtually no diagnostic test to confirm it, and no effective treatment. Heartbroken, it was a long drive home from Dogwood.

I forced myself to read the documentation explaining FIP... WAIT!...there are two promising medications: GC-376 and GS-441524. Both had had clinical trials with promising results but, as they are being developed for human Ebola virus treatment, the feline market is of low priority.

After contacting and being rejected by the only US manufacturer, Jef (my husband) and I figured out how to purchase GS-441524. It arrived the next day! Thanks to two compassionate and interested vets (who will remain nameless, for now), I am now able to compound, dose, and administer the drug. However, GS-441524 is expensive. To continue providing Moustachio with GS-441524, Jef and I committed to donating \$1,000 of the \$4,000 needed, with a plea for donations for the remaining balance.

Update as of 3/27/2020

Many of you received this initial plea for financial assistance from me. To those who received this and made donations – THANK YOU so much! Moustachio continues to improve almost daily. He is on day 57 out of 84 of his treatment. Watching him play with his tail held high in the air, climb the cat tower, and beg for treats, I know he feels better and better each day. These are things he never did before his treatments. Happy Hearts is blessed to have been able to give this kitten a second chance at life.

The question now is **“how can we make this drug available to other cats afflicted with FIP to give them a second chance?”** Due to the high price and low availability, treatment for most cats is very challenging. I don’t have the answer, but I’d like your thoughts, suggestions, and support. It will be impossible, during this COVID pandemic, to get our legislators’ or animal activists’ attention, but I would like to suggest we use this time to put a plan together. I’d like your help -your thoughts and suggestions can be sent to happyheartsfelinerescue@gmail.com or to me directly, at jeanneandthecats@peoplepc.com. For the next FIP kitty’s sake, I look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Events for Happy Hearts Feline Rescue

SHELTER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 2 – 4 PM

10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.

Manchester 48158

Parking: Freedom Town Hall, 11508 Pleasant Lake Rd.

Shuttles will transport guests to and from the shelter.

Please join us and the kitties for a casual, relaxing afternoon. Enjoy food in the company of fellow feline lovers at the Town Hall before you leave!



RSVP appreciated by May 23 to help us plan. Call or email Jeanne at 734-545-2906 or jeanneandthecats@peoplepc.com. We can't wait to see you!

US-12 HERITAGE TRAIL GARAGE SALE AND GOOD FOOD



August 14 and 15, 2020

St James U.C.C.

11005 W Michigan Ave.

Saline, MI 48176

We will be selling fabulous summer food, drinks, and have a booth for the garage sale. Fill yourself up on delicious food on your day of exploring garage sales!

7th ANNUAL MEOW-LOWEEN FUNDRAISER AND DINNER

October 17, 2020 Time TBD

UAW Local 1282

2795 S. M-52

Chelsea, MI 48118

Returning for our seventh year! Costumes! Raffles and Auctions!
Delicious Dinner! Games! Pet Boutique!



PETPEOPLE EVENTS

3330 Washtenaw Ave

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Time: 11a-3p

September 26 – Cat Adoptions

November 14 – Cat Adoptions

December 5 – Pet Pics with Santa

December 12 – Pet Pics with Santa



PetPeople

petpeoplestores.com

Happy Homes (our Success Stories)

Dusty - now known as Dash -

Dusty and his litter mates came to Happy Hearts via surrender. A young couple with two children moved to the "country" and wanted to have their children understand the enjoyment and responsibility of raising pets. However, they did not understand the importance of spaying or neutering the cats and before long they had two litters. As part of the surrender, the family had to get the remaining adults "fixed" through Kat Snips.

All of the kittens were quite social and, of course, adorable! During one of the Bissell Empty the Shelter Events, a friend of Happy Hearts named Fisher contacted us to find a kitty companion for his dog, Jack. Jack was having anxiety issues and Fisher thought a kitty companion might help as Jack's emotional support animal!



When Fisher and his roommate, Nick, came to the shelter, Dusty immediately took to Nick and made it apparent he was going home with them. Fisher was worried how Jack and Dusty would get along but decided to take a chance.

On the way home, Fisher, Nick, and their friend decided the name Dash was more appropriate to this active little kitty. Initially, Dash was wary of Jack as Jack was much larger than little Dash. However, after many weeks of careful attentive interaction with Fisher, Dash and Jack are now best buddies... they curl up on the couch and even play together.

Dash found his loving forever home with Fisher... and his new canine buddy, Jack. And canine buddy, Jack, is living a much less anxious life.

Quick Tips for Introducing New Cats to Other Pets

<https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/behavior/how-introduce-dog-and-cat>



Pixie and Brutus can be found on Instagram @pet_fooldery

- Make sure the new cat always has access to a sanctuary space. The space should include a litter box, scratching post, water, food bowl, toys, and should be able to be separated from other pets.
- Keep the pets separate for a couple days. Allow the pets to get used to each other's presence without face-to-face contact.
- Feed them on opposite sides of a closed door.
- Conduct supervised meet and greets in a common area of the house. Repeat these sessions daily.
- Proceed with caution. Continue to separate the pets when you are not there to supervise.

Happy Homes (our Success Stories)

Lamby

Lamby came to Happy Hearts from the same family as Dusty (see previous article)... a young couple newly in the "country" with non-spay/neutered cats resulting in two litters. Upon placing Lamby and her sibling, Mystery, on PetFinder, the requests came pouring in. Everyone loved this beautiful kitten! Almost as soon as Lamby was put on PetFinder, she was adopted.

Jeanne, our shelter manager, gets regular updates about and pictures of Lamby. April, Lamby's mom, loves her new forever friend:

"Lamby is now 7.5 pounds! Now her favorite food is bone broth and venison! She is so funny. She is smart too! Plays peek a boo and hide and seek! Hilarious."



Jelly Bean

In last year's newsletter we did a special article on FIV-positive cats. We encouraged people to give a second look to an FIV-positive cat because, while they have weakened immune systems, they can be healthy. Also, these cats can live in single cat homes, FIV cat homes, or even mixed homes if integrated properly.

Jelly Bean was surrendered to Happy Hearts in May 2018 when his owner was moved into an assisted living facility. After almost two years in the shelter, Jelly Bean got to go to his new fur-ever home with his new mom, Lisa.

"I wasn't sure this was a good time to add another kitty to my family as mine are mostly senior and Princess Noir is still a work in process, but I wanted to do something to create a spot for the FIV kitten... It has been a real experience with his new energy and enthusiasm... So don't wait for the perfect time, just listen to your heart. Mr. Bean concurs. "

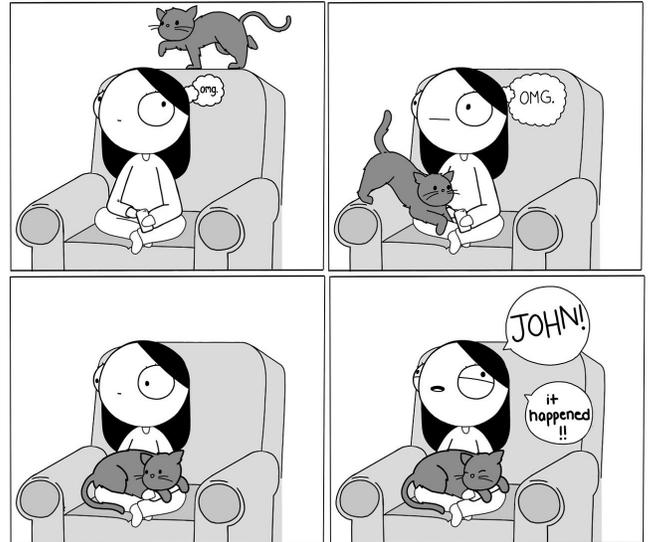
Happy Hearts thanks Fisher, April, and Lisa (and all our other adopters) for giving our kitties such great homes!

The Cat Advantage

Adapted from "Inside Your Cat's Mind", written by Pamela Weintraub

Cats aren't just great additions to a family for companionship. They also help provide health benefits to human well-being. Here are 9 perks that may come as a surprise to cat ownership:

1. Lowers stress. Having a cat can stimulate the production of the "love and bonding" hormone, oxytocin, making you calmer, less lonely, and less stressed.
2. Reduces risk of heart attack. Just petting your cat can help calm you down and doctors speculate that this soothing effect may reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.
3. Helps heal injuries. Your kitty's purr range is between 25 and 140 Hz, the frequency shown to aid the repair of bones, joints, tendons, and wounds.
4. Eases headaches. Some people report that their migraines clear more rapidly when lying and cuddling with their furry friend.
5. Helps with sleep. Researchers say that just having your cat in bed reduces anxiety and night terrors.
6. Reduces allergies. Cats dander can be the cause of allergies. However, studies have shown that children raised with two or more dogs or cats during the first year of life can be less likely to develop an allergy or asthma.
7. Life Savers! One cat warned her owner of an impending epileptic seizure, another helped identify high blood sugar, while still another alerted their owner to a gas leak.
8. Gets Dates! A recent study reports that 90 percent of single women rated men as nicer if they happened to own a cat versus guys who didn't have a feline friend.
9. Even YouTube cats are positive. Watching cat videos boosts viewers' energy & positive emotions and decreases negative feelings according to an Indiana University Media School study.



More cute comics from Catana Comics can be found here (not all are cat related):
<https://catanacomics.com/>

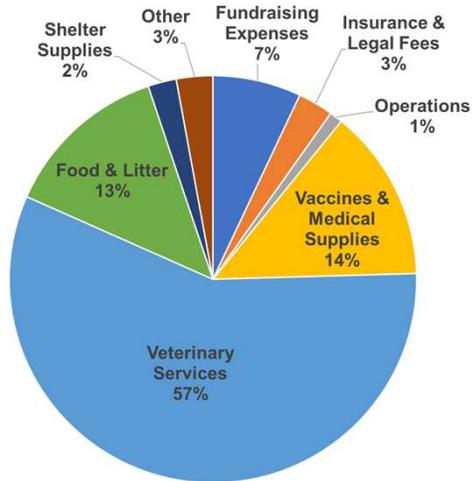
Sign-up for E- Newsletter



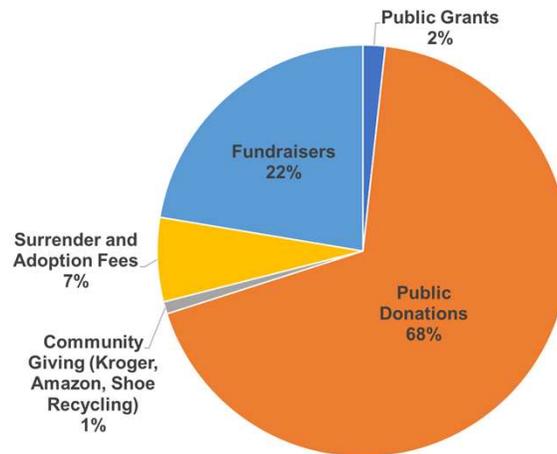
The board of Happy Hearts has been discussing adding an option for an e-newsletter in addition to our printed newsletter. While we have many supporters who prefer a physical printed version, we wanted to make sure those preferring digital have that option. Digital versions also help us to minimize mailing costs. To sign up for our newsletter (digital or print), please go to the Google Form at the QR code to the left or to this link (<https://forms.gle/M4UQSZioBmpmU2H87>).

Pending Veterinary Care Needed

Medical and dental care of our shelter residents is a top priority at Happy Hearts. We want to make sure that our shelter residents are as healthy as possible when they go to live with their new family in their forever home. Because of this, our largest expense is veterinary services (and vaccines and medical supplies). Direct donations by our supporters is our #1 income and, without your generosity, this kind of care would be difficult to achieve. Below are a list of our most urgent shelter residents with pending vet care needed.



2019 Expenses



2019 Income



Baby One-Eye



Eliza



Fae



Gisell

Cat	Necessary Veterinary Care	Estimated Cost	Frequency
Baby One Eye	Blood work needed every 4 weeks to evaluate kidney levels	\$160	per visit
Eliza	Limp in left front leg	\$400	one time
Fae	6 mo Bloodwork to evaluate/adjust Thyroid medicine	\$140	per visit
Gissell	6 mo Bloodwork to evaluate/adjust Thyroid medicine	\$140	per visit
Lily	Severe Dental issues with Stomatitis	\$1,200	one time
Lily	Rechecks on Stomatitis cure	\$54	per visit
"M"	Dental with possible extractions	\$800	one time
Newman	Blood work needed every 4 weeks to evaluate kidney levels	\$160	per visit
Tyner	Dental with possible extractions	\$800	one time
TOTAL		\$3,694	



Lily



"M"



Newman



Tyner

Ways to Support Happy Hearts

- **Amazon Smile:** Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. If it's your first time, search for Happy Hearts Feline Rescue. If you wanted to change your donation to us, please put your mouse over "Supporting:" under the search bar and then click on "Change" next to your current charity. Please search for Happy Hearts Feline Rescue.



- **Amazon Wishlist:** If you want to specifically donate items we need, please look at our Amazon Wishlist at <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/3P1DZXQC4JSNU/>. If you have us as your Amazon Smile Charity, you can also hover over "Account & Lists" then select AmazonSmile Charity Lists.

- **Kroger Community Rewards:** Create a digital account on www.kroger.com/. Link your Kroger card to your digital account. Search for Happy Hearts Feline Rescue (or organization number XF247) on the Community Rewards page. Click Save.



- **Fresh Step:** Create/Log into your Paw Points account at <https://www.freshstep.com/paw-points/>. Log Paw Points via receipts, codes, or website activities. Go to <https://www.freshstep.com/paw-points/donate-points/>. Search for Happy Hearts with our zip code 48158 and sort by distance. Points will be donated to redeem for litter.



DIY Cat Toys



While many of our pets have been enjoying many of us being home more during the COVID-19 pandemic, the time playing with our kitties can destroy many of the toys we've bought for them (if they even pay any attention to those).

As a result, Happy Hearts found some DIY cat toys that you can make from the cardboard boxes that inevitably are lying around the house from Amazon or from toilet paper or paper towel tubes. Instructions and templates for some are located with the appropriate links.



Ring Ball

<https://www.catster.com/lifestyle/5-diy-cat-toys-made-from-empty-tp-rolls>



Treat Rattle



Cardboard Mouse Template

<http://www.marmaladepets.com/owners/mouse.html>

Contact Us!!!

Email: happyheartsfelinerescue@gmail.com

Website: www.happyheartsfelinerescue.org

PetFinder: hhfr.petfinder.com

Facebook: [happyheartsfelinerescue](https://www.facebook.com/happyheartsfelinerescue)

Twitter: [@HappyHeartsFR](https://twitter.com/HappyHeartsFR)

Shelter Location

10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.

Manchester, MI 48158

Board Members

Phillip Johnson

Chris Barr

Jeanne Spencer

Denise Wirtz

Joe Ferris

Shelter Hours

Fridays 11A to 2P

Saturdays 11A to 2P

Sundays 1P to 4P

Or by Appointment



Art from <https://lingvistov.com/>



**I would like to help support
Happy Hearts Feline Rescue!!!**



Donation Amount: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please use my donation for:

_____ General

_____ Medical

_____ Dental

_____ Food

_____ Litter

_____ Sponsor a specific kitty _____

_____ Please send me a letter recognizing my donation (Note: This could be used for tax purposes).

Please mail your donation to:

Happy Hearts Feline Rescue

10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.

Manchester, MI 48158

-or-

Send via **PayPal** to:

happyheartsfelinerescue@gmail.com