

Happy Hearts Feline Rescue

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

2017 Statistics

Intakes: 52

Adoptions: 63



Upcoming Events

EMPTY THE SHELTERS

with Bissell Pet Foundation
May 5, 2018 1:00 - 4:00 PM
10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE

June 2, 2018 1:00 - 4:00 PM
10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

October 27, 2018
Time to be determined
UAW Local 1282
2795 S. M-52
Chelsea, MI 48118

Note from the President

Hello and thank you for being part of the Happy Hearts Feline Rescue Family. During this past year, we have had several challenges arise but, with your support and the hard work of our board members and volunteers, these have been overcome. For those of you who don't know, we had to obtain a zoning variance for our shelter. If this variance hadn't been granted, we would have had to shut our doors. I would like to personally extend my thanks to those that could attend the public meetings at in 2017. It was heart-warming to hear the out-pouring of love and support for our rescue. With your support as well the hard work of the Freedom Township Planning Commission, we were granted the variance and can continue our mission of rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens.

I hope to get a chance to see many of you at our summer open house or Halloween party. It would be wonderful to hear your story. If you have a story you want to share and don't get a chance to come to our events, please feel free to email us at happyheartsfelinerescue@gmail.com.

Phillip C. Johnson, President

In Memory of Strawberry and Norman Matching Donation Drive

Recently, an anonymous donor contacted Happy Hearts Feline Rescue to propose a Matching Donation Drive in memory of her two beloved cats. Our donor has proposed matching donations totaling up to \$1,000, if received before Memorial Day 2018. Your donation and our donor's match would go a long way to help Happy Hearts with expenses such as medical and dental for our shelter residents. Please see the attached memorial for Strawberry and Norman as well as the attached donation slip. Thank you for your help and thank you to this generous cat mom!

What Should I Feed My Cat? – Dry Food...

By Jeanne Spencer, Shelter Manager and Board Member

As shelter manager, I am frequently asked by people adopting our animals “What should I feed my cat/kitten?” I usually proceed to answer what the shelter feeds our kitties.

After thinking about my response, I decided I wasn’t answering the question very well! We are fortunate to have most of our food donated. To balance the kitties’ diets and provide the highest nutrition possible, I usually blend several dry foods together. I do the same with soft food, blending different cans of soft food together to provide the best possible nutrition for our feline residents.

So, now I will answer this question with some education about nutrition and information to guide you to an appropriate answer for your feline friend.

As you already know, there are hundreds of cat food choices in the marketplace today. As such, there is no easy answer to this question. Your decision on what you feed your kitty depends on several things:

- 🐾 your budget
- 🐾 kitty’s likes and dislikes
- 🐾 potential allergies or health issues
- 🐾 availability



I have spent a lot of time researching, reading, sorting, sifting, and trying to decide who had the least biased and most education answer to our question. This quickly ruled out nutrition assessments from manufacturers or retailers, as they will be biased by what they make or sell. I selected the research of Lisa Pierson, DVM, a veterinarian who specializing in nutrition for cats. Dr. Pierson has dedicated her career to feline nutrition!

I will start by saying that Dr. Pierson does not recommend any dry food for your cat or kitten. This is because by simply being “dry” it is hard for your feline to get the moisture it needs for its system. Kidney disease is one of the biggest killers of our feline friends and the disease is exacerbated by the lack of moisture in their diet. Urinary Tract Disease is also prevalent in cats that have water-deficient diets.

Also, dry food is higher in carbohydrates than wet food. As cats are carnivores, they need meat! Do you need to stop feeding your kitty any kind of dry kibble? – Not necessarily, but you may want to re-think it as more of a “snack” than a main stay of kitty’s diet. We make dry food available to our kitties, but feed soft food twice a day, as our mainstay.

What Should I Feed My Cat? – Wet Food...

By Jeanne Spencer, Shelter Manager and Board Member

So on to canned or wet food.... Dr. Pierson provides the following guidelines for feline nutrition when you are shopping for your feline's canned food:

🐾 Animal-based protein (not plant-based)	50% of caloric intake
🐾 Fat	20-40% of caloric intake
🐾 Carbohydrates	1-2% of caloric intake

Meat should be the FIRST, second and third ingredient listed on your choice of canned food. Soy has NO place in your cat's food as it can be a thyroid disrupter. Potatoes, corn, peas, or other vegetables are all forms of carbs. In addition, there are many products on the market that have "gravy". Cats LOVE gravy, but gravies are made with thickeners and are going to increase the amount of carbs in the food.

Dr. Pierson has a complete analysis of most every canned food on the market as of 2017 listed by brand name.

<http://catinfo.org/docs/CatFoodProteinFatCarbPhosphorusChart.pdf>

You can easily compare various cat foods in just a few minutes. KEEP IN MIND, price does NOT mean the best nutrition for your kitty. There are some nutritious canned foods out in your grocery store that are economically priced. Some of the highest cost cat foods found in specialty shops are not necessarily the best food for your kitty.

So, in summary:

1. Dry food should not be the main source of nutrition for your cat. If anything, perhaps a treat or a "hold-over" until its next soft meal.
2. Try to follow the nutritional guidelines listed above. If you do not have time to research the on-line data, remember ingredients are listed in the order of weight/volume in the can. Make sure the ingredients start with meat: Turkey, Beef, Chicken, Duck, Rabbit, meat by-products are ok. Minimize the list of starches or fillers.
3. Cats love gravy, but instead of buying cat foods with gravy, make your own by adding water to the food and mixing it well to make it saucy.
4. Finally, if your kitty has health issues, seek the direction and advice of your veterinarian for the best possible diet for your kitty. The information above is not meant to provide guidance for a kitty with diabetes, kidney or other diseases.



May 2018 Cat/Pet Calendar

Chip Your Pet Month and National Pet Month

Be Kind to Animals Week - First Week of May

International Hug Your Cat Days - May 3rd & May 30th

Do No Harm Day and Anti-declaw Rallies - May 4th

American Humane's Be Kind to Animals - May 6th to 14th

National Pet Week - May 6th to May 12th

National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day - May 12th

Take Your Cat to Work Day - May 12th



Happy Tails – Casper is Reunited with Owner Thanks to Micro-chipping



While feeding a feral colony in Plymouth, Warren noticed a new kitty about the group — A beautiful sleek, black short haired kitty, who seemed unafraid of seeing unfamiliar faces and activities. After talking to the new kitty, Warren was eventually able to pick it up. It clearly was not a member of the feral colony. Warren contacted his friend, Shelly, and Shelly contact Happy Hearts Feline Rescue to see if there was room for this friendly stray.

When arriving at the shelter, the stray kitty was checked over for parasites, possible injuries, and for a microchip. Viola! Kitty was chipped! We now had a chance of returning him to his rightful owner!

After contacting 24 Hour Pet Watch, we were able to not only get the owners name and contact information but also knew that kitty was named Casper! Casper lived in Northville but was found in Plymouth – over a mile away! We contacted Rebecca to let her know that Casper had been found, was safe, and was ready to come home.

Casper had slipped out the door and wandered over a mile away from his home in a 24-hour period. Thanks to the microchip, Casper was able to be reunited with his family. He had had a collar with an identification tag, but somehow it was lost during his journey. Without the microchip, Casper, although safe in the care of Happy Hearts, would never have been reunited with Rebecca.



EMPTY THE SHELTERS is a free pet adoption event organized and sponsored by BISSELL Pet Foundation. The event will take place at 110+ locations in 13 states on May 5, 2018. The May 5 event will be BISSELL Pet Foundation's 10th EMPTY THE SHELTERS event in the past 2 years. EMPTY THE SHELTERS wants to bring attention to the importance of adoption and encourages people to choose adoption first. BISSELL Pet Foundation pays the adoption fee and provides important wellness information to keep pets happy and healthy in their new homes.

Happy Hearts Feline Rescue is participating during this EMPTY THE SHELTER Event and will be adhering to our standard adoption requirements. We would like to encourage anyone who is considering adopting a cat to come out to our shelter, visit with our residents, and participate in this great opportunity. To expedite the adoption process, we suggest reviewing and begin filling out our Adoption Discussion and Contract on our website at:

<http://www.happyheartsfeline rescue.org/adoptable-cats.html>

Other Adoption Events

Happy Hearts has our adoption events at:



3330 Washtenaw Ave,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

May 19th
August 25th
September 22nd
October 13th

See our website or stop in at PetPeople for exact times that we will be there.



TextsFromMittens.com

Happy Tails – FeLV+ Mikey Finds a New Home

Mikey is a cat that was rescued by HHFR friend, Diane, from one of the cat colonies that Diane care for. Before being rescued, he was TNR'd in December of 2015 and became very friendly to all the feral colony caretakers over the following summer. In early December 2016, he was treated for pneumonia and was doing well in Diane's home, but was timid toward strangers. Mikey is FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) positive and Diane was on the wait lists for the FeLV sanctuaries. Happy Hearts Feline Rescue decided to bring Mikey into our "Special Needs" shelter in Spring 2017 where he quickly grew on the rescue board and volunteers because of his very calm, friendly and quiet personality.



Recently, Mikey found his FOREVER LOVING HOME with Cindy! Cindy has adopted all FeLV kitties and is giving them a wonderful forever home. According to Cindy, "[Mikey] has fully integrated with my other cats. Not one skirmish or fight! Beyond unbelievable!". Mikey has especially bonded with Woody, one of her other cats. Apparently, they have both taken to playing with yarn from Cindy's knitting pile and taking it throughout her house! He's also found his food bowl spot and his spot on her bed for the nighttime ritual. He is still a bit reserved around strangers but is very comfortable with Cindy. Cindy said, "Mikey is the best Easter Blessing my cat family could have."

We at Happy Hearts are excited that Mikey is integrating into his new home so well and thank Cindy for having such a large heart and adopting Mikey as well as his FeLV brothers and sisters.

Quotable Quotes

- 🐾 “The more people I meet, the more I like my cat.” – Anonymous
- 🐾 Any household with at least one feline member has no need for an alarm clock. ~ Louise A. Belcher
- 🐾 Cats always seem so very wise, when staring with their half-closed eyes. Can they be thinking, "I'll be nice, and maybe she will feed me twice? ~ Bette Midler
- 🐾 I tawt I taw a puddy tat... ~ Tweety (Looney Tunes)
- 🐾 In ancient times, cats were worshiped as gods. They have not forgotten this. ~ Terry Pratchett
- 🐾 I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days. ~ Bill Dana
- 🐾 People that don't like cats haven't met the right one yet. ~ Deborah A. Edwards



Sick or Not Sick – How do you Know?

Figuring out when your feline friend is ill is sometimes tricky as illness in a cat can be subtle. Here are eleven signs that should cause concern and requires professional attention from your veterinarian:

- 🐾 Changes in Interaction
- 🐾 Changes in Activity
- 🐾 Changes in Chewing or Eating
- 🐾 Changes in Water Consumption
- 🐾 Changes in Grooming
- 🐾 Changes in Vocalization
- 🐾 Unexpected Weight Gain or Weight Loss
- 🐾 Missing the Litter
- 🐾 Signs of Stress
- 🐾 Vomiting

Long Time Residents Spotlight

Happy Hearts has been privileged to be able to rehome many cats and kittens in the five years that we have been active. However, we also see many wonderful cats who have been over-looked multiple times because they don't "audition" well or get out-shone by others in our shelter. As such, we wanted to spotlight some of our "long-time" residents in our shelter who have been looking for forever loving homes for a while. All of these cats are adoptable but may have some personality issues such as wanting to be in a one cat home or may just be shy upon first meeting people (which can definitely be an issue when trying to get adopted). Below are some of these cats and how long they've been in our shelter.



Lucy
Age: 15
Entered Shelter in 2013



Princess
Age: 5
Entered Shelter in 2013



Ella
Age: 10
Entered Shelter in 2014



Pretty Girl
Age: 4
Entered Shelter in 2014



Shadow
Age: 4
Entered Shelter in 2014



Smokey
Age: 17
Entered Shelter in 2014

Call for Volunteers!!!

During the process of obtaining the variance from the Freedom Township Planning Commission, we had to stop our volunteers from coming to help. We are once again allowed volunteers and are in need of help at our shelter. For volunteers, we ask for a two-hour time commitment: one hour helping clean the shelter and one hour socializing our shelter residents. If you have a big heart and would like to help us, please contact our shelter manager, Jeanne Spencer, at 734-545-2906 to set up days and times to help.

Happy Tails – Evander Update

By Shelly Pinter, Happy Hearts Foster

It will soon be a year since we told you about Evander and his terrible plight. He was Happy Hearts' first cruelty case. Many of you have asked about him, so we thought we would give you an update.

Evander underwent major surgery to repair his rectum and surrounding cavities at BluePearl Veterinary Partners in Southfield. The surgery, although having a good prognosis, was not without risk. The risk was that scar tissue could grow and block his rectum and more surgery would be required. The vets at BluePearl estimated six months for Evander to fully heal from the surgery.

Well, we are VERY happy to report that Evander did heal, without issue, from his surgery. Although he has not fully gained tone in his anal muscle, he has about 90% control of his bodily function. We are very happy and proud that we could help such a loving animal. He is very happy, friendly, and greets all who visit him at the shelter. He has put on weight and filled out handsomely. Evander's name means "Good Man" and that's exactly what he is!

Thank you to all who supported our mission to help Evander and still ask about him today! Without your generosity, saving Evander would not have been possible.



Above: Evander in his cone after surgery.



Right: Evander and Jeanne Spencer after much loving care and healing.

Donations

As always, shelters supplies are one of our major costs (surpassed only by medical costs). We can always use the following items:

- 🐾 Canned Cat Food
- 🐾 Litter (Non-Clumping Clay preferred)
- 🐾 Laundry Detergent and Bleach
- 🐾 Paper Towels
- 🐾 Garbage Bags

For donations, call Jeanne at 734-545-2906 to schedule delivery or pick-up.

Also, when Estate planning, please consider donating to Happy Hearts Feline Rescue!



Sliding from Winter to Spring!!!

Shelter Location

10905 E. Pleasant Lake Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

Shelter Hours

Fridays 11A to 2P
Saturdays 11A to 2P
Sundays 1P to 4P
Or by Appointment

Board Members

Phillip Johnson
Christopher Barr
Jeanne Spencer
Denise Wirtz

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)