TORTITUDE!
UNFAIR STEREOTYPE OR GENETIC CHARACTERISTIC?
IN THIS ISSUE

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dave shares updates on the plans for our new adoption center and information on estate planning and pet trusts.

POT’PURRI'
Help us set an all-time high adoption record, cat-themed “Christmas sweater” T-shirts, Jackson Galaxy’s visit to Tree House.

EASY WAYS TO HELP
Running, shopping, dining, and surfing the net are just a few of the easy things you can do to help us help the cats.

COVER STORY
Tortitude: Myth or Reality?

HAPPY ENDINGS
After waiting nine years, Caliby finally finds a real home!

OVERLOOKED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Help these often overlooked, misunderstood beauties find the homes where they will thrive.

REMEMBERING
Our supporters honor and remember their friends and family to benefit our strays.

TREE HOUSE CATALOG
Including great holiday gift ideas!

MAILBAG
Updates from our loyal supporters.

Cover Cat: We transferred Ember out of Chicago Animal Care and Control in February, 2009. While there, we were able to carry her around while she purred and made happy paws. She was clearly sweet, and what struck us most was her obvious intelligence. She was adopted after only a month at Tree House, but it wouldn’t be her happy ending. Just under a year later, neighbors realized Ember had been abandoned in her adopter’s apartment three weeks earlier, with nothing but a bowl of cereal. Ember has had a hard time getting over the trauma of being abandoned, and it has affected her behavior, but we know she is capable of trusting again and will blossom in a home of her own. Please see page 10 to learn more.

Contributors: Kate Boisseau, David de Funiak, Sandy Glaser, Sydney Maier, Gwen Murphy, Jenny Schlueter, Olga Steele, Jackie Such, Kady Walker • Editor: Jenny Schlueter • Graphic Designer: Jowita Kostek

Locations and Adoption Hours

Headquarters
1212 W. Carmen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640
773-784-5488
Monday – Friday 12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.

Bucktown Branch Adoption Center
1629 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622
773-227-5535
Tuesday – Friday 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday – Monday 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
As another year comes to a close, it’s a perfect time to look back at the many accomplishments of Tree House this year, which you’ll read about in the upcoming pages. It’s also an opportunity to acknowledge all of our supporters for making these achievements possible. We truly couldn’t further our mission without the generous support of people like you, and on behalf of all your friends at Tree House, we want to thank you.

Our second annual Black Cat Ball gala event was a huge success this year, and nearly 400 guests joined us at Nacional 27 for an evening of delicious food, drinks, and a variety of entertainment. Jackson Galaxy, of Animal Planet’s My Cat from Hell, was our guest for the evening, and he also visited Tree House the day after the event to review our plans for the new Adoption Center and low-cost Clinic.

One of the highlights of the evening was an update of our progress to date with the new Adoption Center and Clinic. This facility incorporates all of the best practices of shelter design and construction, and will include the most progressive, innovative features available for cat care and housing. We have completed the initial floor plan schematic of the building, which encompasses nearly 14,000 square feet on two floors, and includes the following:

• An education center with professional A/V equipment, full kitchen, and seating for 50 attendees.
• A full in-house clinic with full surgical suite, x-ray and processing room, and comfortable, spacious isolation units with individual air exchanges to reduce disease spread
• Over a dozen cage-free cat living areas with enriching vertical climbing areas and access to outdoor sun rooms
• The structure for our low-cost, veterinary Clinic for the public

The low-cost Clinic remains part of the second phase of construction, but we will be building out the structural shell within the building in the first phase to reduce construction costs. Ideally, we will have enough funding to include the build-out of the Clinic in this first phase, but at the least we will build out the shell if funding is insufficient.

The schematic images can be seen below, and you can also see them on our website under the Capital Campaign section. Stay tuned for further information in the coming months. We will be holding a campaign kickoff event in the Spring to announce the public phase of the campaign, so please spread the word of this important project to friends, family and co-workers.

Thanks also to the many attendees of our Pet Trust seminar hosted by estate planning attorney Peter Canalia. The seminar focused on the important subject of planning for the future of your furry friends should they outlive you, and specifically described the mechanics of pet trusts, how they are funded, and how they are administered. The highlights of the seminar are on our website, but please let me know if you would like further information about pet trusts.

Thank you again for your continued support and please enjoy the articles and stories included in this edition of the Tree House News.

Sincerely,

David de Funiak
Executive Director
Adoptions on the Rise!
At the time of this writing we have already found homes for 578 resident cats this year and have facilitated the adoptions of 74 others from our TNR projects who were either adopted out independently by their foster parents or were prepared for adoption by Tree House and then adopted out via a pilot program with the Anti-Cruelty Society to help us place our “overflow kittens” from our Community Cats Program. So, in total, 652 Tree House cats have found homes as of November 19th, 2012! Our goal is to do at least 50 more adoptions at our shelters before the end of the year, and at least a dozen more via our Community Cats Program! All in all, we project our overall placement totals to be over 700 in 2012!

This is very encouraging news, especially because in 2010 and 2011 we had a slight dip in resident adoptions. However, back in 2009, we made it to 597 adoptions and this was before we began facilitating independent adoptions or transfers. It will be amazing to top that number this year and set an all-time record! We are hopeful that we will surpass our 2012 goal of over 600 resident adoptions, 30 independent TNR adoptions, and 50 kitten transfers to Anti-Cruelty Society, but we truly need your help to do this.

December is historically a slow month for adoptions at Tree House. Word of mouth is always the primary way that adopters hear about us and with our expanded online presence on social media outlets like Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter, spreading the word is easier than ever. With the sharing of photos and stories of special Tree House residents, you can help our cats and kittens find forever homes. So many of our recent adopters visited us on the recommendation of friends or family members. We appreciate the support and the relationships that we’ve been able to build with our adopters and supporters. It’s absolutely thrilling that so many of our wonderful Tree House cats are finding homes everyday and we hope this trend continues. Please help us make it happen!

Be “Stylish” and “Ironic” with an ugly cat-themed Christmas sweater
Over the last several years, it has become trendy amongst the hip, stylish to host “ugly sweater” themed holiday parties. If you have some parties coming up, you can be hip, stylish and the life of the party while showing your love for cats with a cat-themed “Ugly Christmas Sweater” t-shirt! Just visit The Skip N’ Whistle shop on Etsy http://www.etsy.com/shop/skipnwhistle. The shirts come in a variety of colors and styles, but of course we love the cat-themed one!

“America’s Cat Daddy” Jackson Galaxy Lends His Support to Tree House (by Jenny Schlueter from our blog “The Scratching Post”) Many of you know that Jackson Galaxy was the keynote speaker at our Black Cat Ball in October, but you may not know that Jackson has been a Tree House supporter for quite some time.

Last Spring I met Jackson “over the phone” when we were both recording interviews for Tree House Board Member Steve Dale’s Pet World Radio Program, www.stevedalepetworld.com- thanks for the introduction Steve! We had a nice chat, and Jackson mentioned that he admired our work, and had always wanted to visit us. When we were planning the Black Cat Ball, I thought it’d be a great opportunity for Jackson to finally come see us and to contribute to the event as well.

I was thrilled when Jackson accepted our invitation. His schedule is super-busy between recording episodes of Animal Planet’s “My Cat From Hell” and all of the other work he does for shelters across the country, not to mention his private behavior practice and his company “Spirit Essences”. In addition, he has spent much of the past year promoting his book “Cat Daddy: What the World’s Most Incorrigible Cat Taught Me About Life, Love and Coming Clean” - which tells the inspiring story of Benny, the cat who...
saved his life and set him on the path to becoming America’s Cat Daddy. Along the way, he shares his mission—born from his many years working at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley—to help save the 4 million dogs and cats who die in shelters each year.

Nowadays people are always skeptical about the sincerity of celebrities, assuming that the causes they purport to support are superficial at best, but I think we can all attest to Jackson’s sincere commitment to helping create a No Kill Nation through his work.

Not only did he give an amazingly heart-wrenching talk at the Black Cat Ball, about the importance of our work with the neediest companion animals – the sick, injured, abused, and neglected stray cats who are often overlooked by other shelters – he also talked about the bigger picture, reminding us that outside of our idyllic “No Kill” world at Tree House, there are thousands of cats being euthanized across the country every day and we need to continue to take many approaches to address this issue.

The day after the ball, I gave Jackson a tour of our Shelter Headquarters. Afterwards, he gave his “Cat Mojo” presentation to our staff, and met with our management team to discuss our plan for the new adoption center and low cost clinic. It was reassuring to hear Jackson’s assessment of our work. He seemed very impressed not only with our focus on stray cats, but with the many programs we offer not only to adopt them out, but to prevent them from losing their home in the first place – which is exactly what he has been doing with his behavior practice. Not many organizations have their own Behavior Hotline, Cat Care booklet, and the wealth of resources we offer on our site. Jackson is also a huge Community Cats and TNR advocate and was impressed with our program and preparations for our colony caretaker fest. He posted a video blog about our winter colony care tips on his site. http://jacksongalaxy.com

Maybe the best part of Jackson’s visit, is that he was able to see how much we do in such a small space, and it solidified his interest in joining our advisory board and help us plan our new adoption center.

We are thrilled to welcome him aboard, and so grateful that he is willing to share his expertise and contacts to help us build the best state-of-the-art cageless, cat-focused adoption center and low cost clinic in the country. Before he left, Jackson was kind enough to record a message of support for our capital campaign.

We will formally launch the campaign in March, 2013, and we hope you will join Jackson in lending your support to the project at that time. We have a lot of work to do, and the cats desperately need us. We can only achieve our dream of a No Kill Nation with your continued support!
Every Dollar Makes a Difference (and there are even ways you can help without spending a dime!)

Of course we depend on direct financial contributions, but there are many other ways our supporters can help us as well: New or very gently used items as well as gift certificates (restaurants, gas cards, shopping, fitness clubs, etc.) can be used at one of our many fundraising events. Plus, we can benefit from some of the every day activities you do anyway, whether it’s shopping or searching on-line, dining out or recycling your old cell phone. Please read on to learn more about how you can help Tree House without spending an extra dime from your own pocket!

Raise Funds with Team Tree House and Enjoy FREE CARA Membership and Training

Tree House is pleased to be a CARA (Chicago Area Runner’s Association) member this year. Whether you are looking for a new challenge or are a seasoned athlete. Whatever you like to do - run walk, bike. And whatever distance you choose - a 5K or 10K, ½ marathon, or a marathon - Strut your stuff and raise funds to help save animals’ lives.

Enjoy Benefits Such As:
• FREE CARA membership*
• FREE or discounted CARA Summer Training Program*
• Tree House racing singlet
• Native Foods Café gift certificate
• Significant discounts at area running stores, spas, massage, and more
• One-year subscription to Runners World magazine ($20) value
• CARA member discounts on race entry fees
• Personalized fundraising page to help you raise funds for the cats
• And more

Learn more: FirstGiving.com/TreeHouseCats/CARA
For more information contact: Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org, 773-584-7488 ext. 230

*CARA membership and summer training program options based on program and fundraising commitments, contact Kristine for details.

Give to Tree House at Your Workplace

Tree House is a proud member of Community Shares of Illinois, a workplace giving program made up of more than 50 local organizations addressing the root causes of important social problems facing our communities and our state. Member organizations provide education, promote health, protect women and children, advance home ownership, advocate for individual rights and animal welfare, and work to end discrimination and violence.

You can give to Tree House at work - this program offers employees a way to contribute to causes they are passionate about. If your workplace participates in Community Shares of Illinois select Tree House as your chosen cause. You may also be able to select to give to Tree House through other workplace giving programs at your workplace. Contact your HR department to learn more. If your employer does not participate in Community Shares of Illinois you are interested in learning more contact HYPERLINK “mailto:Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org” Kristine@TreeHouseAnimals.org.

BOGO Bowl

Our Pet Food Pantry has partnered with BOGO Bowl, a healthy, high quality dog food that is not only a nutritious choice for at-home pets, but works to solve a serious problem. With every purchase of BOGO Bowl dog food, a matching bag of food will be given to the purchaser’s shelter of choice. Help families and pets in need by selecting to donate to Tree House when you purchase food from BOGO.

Shop and Search on-line for Tree House

Two great sites make it easy to search, shop or dine and donate a percentage of the proceeds to Tree House at no cost to you!

GoodSearch/Shop/Dine

GoodSearch.com is a website which makes raising money for our cause incredibly easy! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo!-powered search engine which donates about a penny per search to your nonprofit. GoodSearch.com also has an online shopping portal called GoodShop.com, which works with more than 2,500 stores (including Amazon, Apple, Target and
Macy’s) to donate a percentage of your purchase to our cause. And, GoodShop.com has coupons worth $2 million in savings so you can save money while giving back. And the new GoodDining.com allows our supporters to donate up to 6% of every dollar you spend when you eat at one of 10,000 participating restaurants.

How can you get started? Take two minutes to register here and remember to choose Tree House as your cause. https://www.goodsearch.com/Registration

Encourage your community to start using GoodSearch. Get inspiration for ways to spread the word here: http://www.goodsearch.com/getinvolved

iGive.com
iGive.com offers you a way to shop and automatically support Tree House. Simply shop online at some of your favorite retailers such as Amazon.com, expedia.com, Macy.com, or Crate and Barrel (plus find some new ones) and a portion of your purchases will be donated to Tree House Humane Society - it’s that easy! So, go ahead...shop, and feel good about it.

Four Easy Steps:
• Visit: iGive.com
• Join: iGive (it’s FREE) - the stores pay
• Choose: Tree House as your cause
• Shop Online: you’ll automatically be supporting Tree House as you shop

$5.00 will be donated to Tree House for just trying it out, even if you don’t shop! $5.00 more will be donated to Tree House for your first purchase. Visit igive.com to learn more and start supporting Tree House today!

Tree House Boutique
We have lots of great gift ideas for cats and cat lovers alike! Tribute cards, holiday cards, note cards, calendars, toys, apparel and more! Visit TreeHouseAnimals.org today. We add new items regularly and all profits go to help more needy companion animals!

Eat, Drink and Be Merry!
Over the last year our friends at Trader Todd’s have been donating the profits from their delicious veggie burgers to Tree House, and their generous offer still stands! All you have to do is get some friends together, go to Trader Todd’s and enjoy their funky beer garden (complete with fire pit and sailboat!) tasty tiki drinks, full menu, and friendly staff. If you like to sing, you’ll love their free karaoke starting every evening at 8 p.m.! For more info, visit TraderTodd.com.

In-kind Donations
Making monetary donations is not the only way to give to Tree House. We are always in need of items for our shelter and to use for events. An easy way to help is by seeing our wish list on Amazon.com listed under Tree House Humane Society. Our most urgent needs include:
• Dry Pet Food: cat and dog food to support low-income individuals and outdoor colony caretakers in need through our Pet Food Pantry • Canned Pet Food: Canned cat food (name brand, especially holistic or human grade such as Wellness®, California Natural®, Neuman’s Own®, Innova®, PetGuard, etc.) • Freeze-dried, single-meat, cat treats • Water proof heating pads • Cat toys (especially ping pong balls and easy-to-clean toys) • Humane traps (http://www.animal-traps.com/) • Dog and cat carriers • Apple iPad • New gift items or gift certificates to be used for our annual raffle (items from national or on-line retailers are especially valuable as we have supporters from all over the country)

Please ship or drop-off donations at: Tree House Humane Society, 1212 W. Carmen Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

Thanks so much for you’re help! For more ideas on how you can help, please visit: TreeHouseAnimals.org/WaysToHelp
Tortoiseshell cats are named for their distinctive coloring – usually a combination of black, brown, amber, red, cinnamon and/or chocolate. The size of the patches varies from a fine speckled pattern to large patches of color. The term “tortoiseshell” is used for cats with brindled coats that have few or no white markings. Cats of this coloring with larger areas of white fur are called calicos. Sometimes, these colors present in lighter versions such as lilac or cream. Those with this lighter color combination are usually called dilute or pastel torties. Occasionally, the typical tortoiseshell colors are also seen in a tabby (striped) pattern, and these cats are sometimes referred to as “torbies” or “patch tabbies.”

Tortoiseshell cats are almost exclusively female. Tortoiseshell and calico coats are the result of the interaction between genetic and developmental factors. The occasional and very rare male tortoiseshell cat is the result of a genetic mutation. In our more than 41 years of operation Tree House has never had a male tortoiseshell cat.

In addition to their distinctive coloring, torties also have a reputation for unique personalities, sometimes referred to as “tortitude.” Many people generalize about torties and note their tendencies to be to be strong-willed, feistier, a bit hot-tempered, louder, and generally more demanding or difficult to deal with than other cats. They are also known for being very possessive of their human. Other words often used to describe torties are fiercely independent, unpredictable, divas, and princesses. Some note a tendency to be very talkative and to make their presence and needs known with all kinds of vocalizations. These traits seem to be stronger in tortoiseshell cats than in calicos - it seems as though these traits are somewhat diluted with the addition of more white to the color scheme.

Tree House Advisory Board Member and star of Animals Planet’s “My Cat From Hell” Jackson Galaxy shies away from generalizing about cats baed on physical characteristics. That being said, he does agree that cats like torties, calicos and orange tabbies tend to have a much more distinct personality. He does note however, that it is important to not let the stereotypes breed prejudice when dealing with torties or any other cat.

Tree House’s Director of Programs, Ollie Davidson agrees with Galaxy. Yet after so many years of working in a shelter environment, he says it is difficult to fight these stereotypes and says that as long as they are not taken too seriously, they can be a fun and light-hearted way to help people choose a cat. According to Davidson, it all comes down to the orange coloring “Most orange cats are friendly and laid back, torties and calicos have fun, independent, personalities and tend to be extra loyal to their one favorite person, but all the other cats such as tuxedos, blacks, brown tabbies, grey tabbies, solid greys, etc. are harder to define by color alone.” Not surprisingly, Ollie’s all-time favorite cats, are orange tabbies and torties!

It is interesting to note that Galaxy says he has not found tortoiseshell cats to be feistier than average, but he does believe they tend to be “more sensitive to the stimulus around them.”

Tree House Resident Clinic Staffer, Gretel Ulyshen concurs, noting that about 75% of the torties or torbies the clinic sees tend to have what they lovingly refer to “spicier personalities” or “cayenne pepper coat”, and attributes that to “increased sensitivity to their surroundings” but still asserts that “tortitude” is a stereotype we should avoid. Still she admits that if a tortie happens to be a difficult patient to work with someone is “bound to bring it up” and thus the stereotype is perpetuated.

Tree House Adoption Counselor Sydney Maier agrees that it is easy to be “swept up by the stereotype”. “Once the idea is planted, its easy to attribute every
behavior to that stereotype, says Maier. “But I don’t think it is because of their coloring”.

So is tortitude real? Coat color in cats depends on genetics, and genetics can also have a large role in behavior, so it’s possible. Some geneticists theorize that female cats with the gene for red fur are extra feisty -- this could therefore apply to calicos, torties, torbies, and patch tabbies (almost all of whom are female), as well as orange tabby female cats.

Maier notes that first-time cat owners often do not know about “tortitude” but they do often come in with knowledge of other cat myths and stereotypes. “Many potential adopters come in with stereotypes like “female cats are mean” and “cats older than two won’t ever bond with them”, or they want a silver tabby because they had one before and it was “the best cat”.

Maier adds that the tortie stereotype is second only to the stereotype many people have about black cats. “They come in and assume that all black cats get overlooked or black cats are mistreated, says Maier. “So they feel like they should adopt a black cat because they are the most disadvantaged.”

Although it is widely reported that black cats do have a hard time getting adopted at most “traditional shelters”, interestingly enough, we do not have as much of a problem adopting them out at Tree House. Maier theorizes that it has to do with our wonderful adopters, many of whom are “repeat customers” or experienced cat people who want to adopt a special needs or overlooked cat. For this reason, many of our black cats do get good homes at or near the same rate as other cats here.

Many of our adopters have really researched shelters and choose us for our unique mission of rescuing sick and injured stray cats. “They are also usually aware of the issue with black cats, and they think they are in danger, so they are eager to help” says Maier, “but they do not include torties in that category.”

It’s probably easier for people to sympathize with black cats who seem to be overlooked through no fault of their own, while beautiful, multi-colored torties are overlooked due to what people assume is an innate behavioral issue that can’t be changed. For example, if a tortie doesn’t run up to greet some potential adopters right away, it’s “tortitude” says Maier. But they wouldn’t likely say that about a black cat in the same room who doesn’t approach them, instead attributing that behavior to being shy or sleepy. Adding to the dangers of this kind of stereotyping, it would then seem that if another cat “misbehaves” that is something that can potentially be corrected, but if a tortie does it, its just accepted as part of their unchangeable personality.

So, is all this talk about “tortitude” just a myth or is there some truth to it? “We hear generalizations about coat colors all the time,” says Davidson. “And even though I’m guilty of doing it myself occasionally, I admit that its’ mostly because of my personal experience with cats of all colors, including torties. Davidson explains that in the end, he doesn’t really take any of the stereotypes that seriously.

And maybe that’s the key, we humans know all to well that it is easy to make all kinds of generalizations about people and animals alike, but that there are exceptions to every rule. In the long run, it does no good to base our opinions of each individual animal - all with unique colors, markings, backgrounds and personalities on a stereotype based solely on their coloring.

So go ahead, if you like the fun and playful aspect of “tortitude” embrace it, but don’t let it stand in the way of getting to know these beautiful members of the feline family.

Turn the page to meet some of our fun, feisty, loveable and unique torties who are waiting for their forever homes!
We transferred Ember out of Chicago Animal Care and Control in February, 2009. While Tree House staff were there, we were able to carry her around while she purred and made happy paws. She was clearly sweet, and what struck us most was her obvious intelligence (one look in those piercing green eyes, and you’ll agree). She was adopted after only a month at Tree House, but it wouldn’t be her happy ending. Just under a year later, neighbors realized Ember had been abandoned in her adopter’s apartment three weeks earlier, with nothing but a bowl of cereal.

The neighbors kindly opened their home to her, and became her official adopters. But Ember had changed; having been abandoned had really traumatized her, and it appears that she was suffering from a sort of PTSD. When her new people left for work in the mornings, Ember became incredibly stressed. When they would come home, she would be so overstimulated, she would swat and bite. She also developed a constant cough, and their vet concluded that Ember had developed asthma (most likely stress-induced), which required costly treatment. Despite earnest effort and dedication, her adopters could not resolve all of these issues, and with heavy hearts, returned her in June, 2010.

Ember has made a lot of progress back at Tree House, but she can still be overstimulated fairly easily. She likes to spend time in the Caretaking office, and is very affectionate with those who visit. Many who interact with her daily are able to place her on their laps and nuzzle her sweet face. It’s very hard for her here, though, since living with so many other cats seems to make her nervous. She’s also known to swat at the ankles of careless passersby—though staff have learned her signals, and are happy to give her a wide berth! Her asthma doesn’t give her any trouble, but just in case, she’s treated every other day with a cortico-steroid.

Ember would do well in a quiet, calm home. She reportedly does not do well with dogs, but may be alright with another calm or reserved cat. She does not constantly demand attention, but it would certainly comfort her to be near someone who earned her trust. Ember requires some patience, understanding, and forgiveness; this sensitive, tenderhearted girl hasn’t fully recovered from the shock of her abandonment. She doesn’t let down her guard often, but when she does, she’s so joyful! We know the right home would let her blossom, and that joy wouldn’t be so rare.

Faith had been “TNRed” in Chicago, but somehow ended up in suburban DuPage County Animal Control. This girl was so friendly it was obvious that she needed to come in to the shelter to find a forever indoor home. So we admitted her in November of 2009. Faith now enjoys romping around on the first floor of our Shelter Headquarters, testing out new things to nap on, and lolling around in patches of sunlight. Many visitors see her round form and ask us if she’s pregnant! But Faith doesn’t let it get to her, and is only too happy to show forgiveness by rubbing their legs. She loves to play with wand toys (when she’s the only one chasing them), and she’s known for enthusiastically arching her back way
She’s known to gently nibble on toes. Her lip deformity, which could be an old wound or a congenital defect, doesn’t give her any trouble, and only adds to her character. We estimate she was born between 2008-2009, and is a lovely, healthy young girl. Self-aware and sweet, there’s really no good reason she shouldn’t have been adopted already.

Unfortunately, not everyone who visits knows or remembers to pet a new cat friend gently, or pay attention while petting. For this reason, they miss the signs of over-stimulation, and Betty Boop resorts to smacking the hand that pets her. She doesn’t bite or use her claws, but the defensive action is enough to drive away most adopters. Ms. Boop prefers to control her human interaction, at least while she feels vulnerable in the shelter. We know if she had an attentive person and the chance to get away from other cats, she’d be the most loving companion—constantly showing affection, staying close by, and giving her special Betty Boop smile.

Poor Aggie. Aggie is a hilarious little girl with one very challenging issue: her digestive system. Since we don’t know the root issue, her condition was touch and go for a while. Our clinic seems to have gotten her pain, soft stool, and vomiting under control, but to maintain normal function, Aggie is constantly medicated. Each day, she receives subcutaneous fluids, a twice daily oral liquid injection for gas relief, a steroid, a twice daily injection to prevent vomiting, two pain medications, and two other treatments that are mixed into her prescription food. (Continued on next page.)
It’s a lot for this little cat, and it’s a lot to ask of an adopter. That said, Aggie is an amazing, resilient, tough cookie! Despite her daily discomfort, and the amount of unsolicited handling that comes with so many treatments, Aggie is incredibly well adjusted and friendly. She lives in a small office, and shares it with another cat on the same diet (Pippi). The two have to be isolated there to prevent them from eating non-prescription dry food, and they leap up to greet anyone who enters their little abode.

Aggie reaches for people with her whole body, often head-butting and purring while she talks about her day. If her visitor turns to leave before Aggie has had her fill of attention, she will unabashedly smack their arm and let out an indignant cry. Should the visitor resume the love fest, Aggie melts once more into a purring tortie puddle. Aggie is very observant, and seems to know who will give her attention; perhaps it was that intuition which led her to her admitter’s porch. Whatever the case, Aggie loves people, and has learned if she can get attention from you once, she can do it again with unwavering confidence. Recently, we caught her all cuddled up with Pippi! There’s no end to Aggie’s affection and enthusiasm. We hope Aggie finds a very special adopter with an equally big heart.

Lira was rescued during one of our TNR projects. She was agitated and protective of herself, but we could see under her defenses that she was sweet and hopeful, and not a feral cat. She was fostered by a dedicated Tree House volunteer who had only good things to say about her while in the home. When she first arrived at the shelter, Lira was headstrong and forward. Before long, however, Lira seemed to retreat inward, and didn’t really come out to meet people. Despite such a solid personality, she hasn’t made an impression on anyone. With so many friendly cats running up to say hello, adopters rarely seek out the cat that hides. Recently, we noticed she’s not much of a presence at all anymore, and have made it a goal to give her some extra attention when we’re up in her colony. When she realizes she has your undivided attention, she emerges from her bed or basket, cautiously sniffs the hand offered, and gently head butts it. She’ll turn her face to guide the pets and scratches, and seems happy, if only for a moment. Lira has been her since January 2012, and that’s long enough. Please come show Lira she doesn’t have to hide in the corner anymore. With a little love, she’ll return to the confident, assertive fire cracker we know she really is!
Little Opry has only been here since July of 2012, but that can feel like an eternity to a cat not yet two years old. Opry had a home once, but her family abandoned her in their Chicago apartment when they moved to Tennessee. She was found without food or water when the landlord entered the apartment two weeks later.

We don’t know what she was like in her home, but she struggles here. She’s interested in people, thoroughly sniffing hands before turning her face away. But when people try to stroke her cheek or scratch her ears, she nips, almost as if she expects the worst. She’s eager to explore, sometimes escaping her colony. She doesn’t resist being picked up and brought back to her room, but attempt a soothing pet, and she’ll run off. She adores play, and watches her feline roommates closely. She needs someone who will earn her trust, who won’t be discouraged by Opry’s obvious tension and anxiety, and will help her through the trauma of being left behind.

Marie Louise was found in her admitters’ backyard in June of 2011. She was quite friendly, despite looking sick: she was sneezing, had dark eye discharge, and was very thin. When she arrived at Tree House, she tested positive for FIV (during the combo test she purred and made happy paws). Luckily, we had space in our FIV+ colonies, and we were able to admit her.

Now Marie Louise is a strong, healthy, beautiful girl. Born in 2001, she’s far more composed and lady-like than her younger feline roommates, and seems easily annoyed by their antics and energies. She prefers to watch them from high up on a perch, considering their games, and moving onto her leisurely day of grooming, napping, and waiting for someone to notice her. Marie Louise loves people and attention, and longs for a quiet home of her own. Sadly, she lives in a room with vocal, playful cats who commandeer any attention, and she’s passed over time and time again. Take a moment to meet her, and you’ll see clear eyes, a gentle demeanor, and earnest hope.

Robin Lane is an outgoing, curious and chipper cat. Although she has the tendency to become overstimulated, we think this behavior is mostly triggered by new situations and the fact that she startles easily in the hectic shelter environment. We are confident that Robin Lane will work through these issues with just a bit of patience from her adopter, and once she is back to being an only house cat or with just one gentle animal friend. Robin Lane is also friendly and vocal. She loves to play with her favorite toys - furry mice and sparkle balls. A true lap cat, Robin also enjoys getting as much petting anyone can give her. She would be a very loyal companion; she is often the first to greet visitors to the Bucktown Branch Adoption Center at the door asking for attention and affection. She’s was admitted in March of 2009 and that is way too long for such a great cat to wait for her forever home.
MAILBAG
OUR TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SUCCESS

Dear Tree House...

I’ve never REALLY been a cat person... I’ve always been all about dogs. But one day, thanks to Tree House volunteer, Kristi Bachmann, a tiny kitty with GIANT ears came into my life. I saw her picture and had some kind of instant connection. Her husband helped pressure me into going to see her (just kidding, it wasn’t THAT much pressure). The instant I saw her, my heart melted, then I learned she had tested positive for the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). I knew her chances of being adopted were very limited. But her little gaze gripped me, and her giant ears made me melt. Then she started playing with her silly sparkle toys and it was all over. Seeing how much Kristi (and her husband Jamie) adored her, and knowing that she came from pretty sad circumstances at a sand blasting facility, and then knowing that she was a high risk kitty made my heart melt and I knew I had to take her home.

My ten-year-old son had been begging for a cat, and although I was leery about bringing a kitty home who was “high risk”... I knew I had to. I told Kristi and Jamie that I REALLY hoped she would sleep with Jordan and be “his cat” because we lost our Malamute/Husky mix a few months earlier and we were both still grieving. At first she was very shy, very scared, and very leery of people. Usually when someone came over she would run and hide. However, she began slowly warming up to me while my son was at his dad’s. A few weeks later, my son came home to his new kitty. He was instantly in love... and somehow, way out of the ordinary, that little shy kitty took to him like a magnet. She knew she was his, and even though he slept in a loft bed that we thought might have been too high and scary for her... she QUICKLY found a way to leap from his toy chest to his bed and slept with him instantly EVERY NIGHT! He was in love! They became fast friends! Whatever room he was in, she was in. If he was upstairs, she was upstairs (and still is!). The more she was around him, the more she came out of her shell. Then, she became PLAYFUL! She would play with her bird, her twist toys, her sparkle balls, and actually come out when people were here! She became FUN KITTY instead of scared kitty! Now she spends every moment of every day with my son. They are BESTIES!

I believe, surprisingly, that I have become a cat person. Kristi taught her to fetch toys, and my son perfected the art. Now, she’s like our “little dog” and fetches relentlessly. Sometimes TOO relentlessly when I wake up at 3 am and she’s got a toy for me to throw! Adopting Tiny Tunes was one of the best things I’ve ever done. I know that no matter how long she has with us (because of her FeLV) it will be memorable and wonderful. She has become incredibly loving and social, and I attribute it to the love my son showed her when she came home. He played with her, he loved her, he slept with her, and he was her “brother”. They are BEST FRIENDS and he adores her!

Never underestimate the power a kitty can bring to your life. “Tiny Tunes” was her name when she was adopted, but my son renamed her “Jimmy Choo” because of her 4 white shoes... she now goes by Chooey, and she still loves her auntie and uncle Kristi and Jamie!

Thank you for gently guiding me to this silly little cat who has brought so much to our lives! :) xoxoxo

Judy Johannsen

Hi Tree Housers!

I just wanted to drop a note and tell you all how Cassita (now lovingly renamed Izzy) is doing. After the first night spent under the couch, Izzy crept out after a little coaxing with some treats. She has spent every day since being so cozy with me! Izzy is exactly what I hoped for, and has settled in so well in just the first week! We are still working out a feeding schedule but we are testing out a “slim cat” feeding ball which she has taken to for in between wet food feedings. Izzy has only been in my life for a week, but I can’t imagine my life without her now, she is such a doll!
and so well mannered. I was expecting some settling in time with crazy antics (which I mentally prepared for) but there has been nothing! Izzy is the cat I have always wanted.

I just can’t thank you all enough for taking the time to make sure I got the cat that suited me the best. Kate was so informative and really seemed to care about both the cats and the homes they go to. Everyone I encountered at Tree House was amazing.

Again, thank you! I will be in touch with more pictures and stories!

Best Regards, Bridget

Editors Note:
Shy Palla was recently adopted. A staff favorite, Palla has been adopted three times before and returned each time for being “too shy”. His new “mom” Tatiana, was eager to take on the challenge of working on Palla’s socialization and the following are some of the frequent email updates she sent in the days following his adoption:

Hello Tree House:

I am about to go to sleep, but not before giving you a quick update. Over the last two hours, Palla ate the daily requirement for a cat weighing 6 to 8 pounds. Hopefully, his stomach will be okay in the morning. He used the litter box already and has not yet complained about being confined to a washroom. Palla has already a nickname: snuggle bug. He is enjoying his massages and turns his head to whichever side he wants to get scratched.

A moment ago, Palla made himself comfortable in his basket - for the first time. I will leave the nightlight on for him; the Feliway is plugged in and on my way out I will lock the washroom, do that nobody accidentally opens the door. P.S. Palla sends Good night snuggles to his fan club at Treehouse.

I have just ended another visit with Palla, but I had the feeling, he did want to let me go. Palla spent a lot of time this evening moving back and forth between the sink and the toilet seat, stretching, showing off a little, but mostly snuggling.

I have just sent you a few photos of Palla snuggling, hot off the presses. Here he is eating tuna in an oh-so-comfortable position. Now he moved in front of the bowl. Palla is a Wellness canned food fan. I gave him a little bit in the very beginning when he had not yet touched the Tree House food; I actually counted the pellets. He loves it. None of the others ever did. Roxy is very happy about the Science Diet, though. He is only eating the regular tuna because I am out of Wellness. I only had one can left this morning; I thought it was two. Well, here is Palla after already eating a regular sized cat food can and one can of tuna. Hopefully nobody was planning on tuna tonight, because he is on the second and last can. He will usually have to stick to cat food, though. As soon as I have the car tonight, I will buy his food.

Hope you enjoyed the photos of Palla snuggling and this photo which shows that he is getting his rips upholstered ;-) . He can purr so loud. Palla sure gives our other cat, Roxy, a ‘run for the money’ when it comes to snuggling.

Here is a photo of Palla’s third snuggle session today. Yes, he is still in the washroom. We will set up the crate for him tomorrow evening. If you have any ideas on how to create some vertical space for him, please let us know. He loves to stretch and move around when he is not snuggling or sleeping or eating. He still does not play much with toys - only a moment here and there ... like my other cats frankly. Palla also has a unique and cute way of eating.

Best regards,
Tatiana Rehbein
In Honor of...
In honor of Mia and Mica (formerly Merricat and Julian). We are thrilled to share our lives with them.
Judy and Phil Kiefer

In Loving Memory of...
In loving memory of Mrs. Ruth Rose Pence
Thanks to Renate I Aml, Sadonna, Samie Davis Jr. Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Niewinski & Family, and Bonnie (The Spinner Dog) for their love-thoughtfulness of all animals, all Gods creations!! -- Mom donated the most by the giving of herself - time"
Richard Pence

Dearest Ruthie,
If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, we would walk right up to heaven and bring you home again.
All of our love,
Dennis and Karla Norkey

Leroy Tyrone Shaquile Colaianni-Wing was an extremely courageous, outspoken, tough, unusual and wonderful cat. He was very loved and will be forever remembered and always missed. We are honored to have known him.
Carla Colaianni and Cathy, Cedric and McGhee Crown
Robert Meyers  
• Spike  
Susan Wells  
• Zork  
Richard & Judith-Demar Raddatz  
• Puff  
Emil & Gloria Malina  
• Bouche, Dolly, Stoney, Spot, & Turselo Susan Youngquist  
• Sporkie  
Emilie Remus  
• Milo  
Timothy & Beverly Ledig  
• Charles  
Geraldine Heitzman  
• Oreo  
Brenda Brendel  
• Louie  
Cathy Hoffmann  
• Esther James  
Kenneth James  
• Tess Rechner  
K. Poe  
Larry Balossi  
• James & Charlotte  
Larry Balossi  
• Yana Dymarskoy & Olga Konovalova  
• Sienna  
Annie Schiffl  
• Larry Balossi  
Casey & Julie Norderdale  
• Kevin Tabor  
Margaret O'Brien  
• Kevin Tabor  
Bruce & Margarita Winkle  
• Kevin Tabor  
David & Marybeth Drehmer  
• Cheyenne  
Darlene Nineberg  
• Puffy  
Martha Waters  
• Marmalade & Venus  
Victoria Carole Holdsworth  
• Jessie Joe  
Tom & Mary Merchant  
• Louie  
Georgette Manginelli  
• Molly  
Mary Artese  
• Fuzzy  
Paula Ballin  
• Freddie (Dog)  
Dianne Jeffries  
• Georgie Porge  
Phyllis Lo Duca  
• Jack Goldstein  
Jean Beaupre  
• Dino & Babe  
Gregory Costa  
• Apricot  
Janet Omer  
• Shirley Migani  
Lorrie Kraft  
• Lee Munder  
Candace Singer  
• Kyle E. Powell  
Nelda Powell  
• Martin Scullion  
Jo Ellen Hellwig  
• Mollie Ann  
Connel Keogh  
• Kylo  
Louse Goodkin  
• Punkie  
Any Henderson  
• Thomas R. Stimpson & Pumpkin  
Charlene Smith  
• Martin Scullion  
Steven Scullion  
• J.W. Hiller  
Edith Gardner  
• Lando Calissian  
Gloria Balice  
• Dusty May, Tiffany Rose, & Molly  
Anne Hazel Lindenbaum  
• Marty Scullion  
Arleen Kohli  
• Snake  
Larry Gunther  
• Martin Edward Scullion  
Laura Nolte  
• Dr. Holly Pohl  
Rudolfo & Amanda Garcia  
• Wink  
Marla Bloom  
• Joy Inverso  
Susie Inverso  
• Lee Munder  
DataTrak International, Inc.  
• Esther James  
Kenneth James  
• August Zile  
Stacey Gray  
• Virginia Podlogar  
Mark & Ona Kroll  
• Georgetta Olland-Barrish  
Michael & Rhoda Schlesinger  
• Tim Rundle  
Diane Pistole & Debra Brackett  
• Tigger  
Jim Brent  
• Jane Pellegrini  
Beverly & Edwin Buchert  
• Thelma  
Debra Superczynski  
• The Little Brown Cat, Yuri, Bruno, Jascha, Malcolm, Boris & Natasha  
Frederick Sturm & Debra Gilaspie  
• Sage Larys  
Rosemary Laurie  
• Rue  
Jane Parris  
• Romeo  
Marie Angelico  
• Rocky Bibbo  
Elizabeth Leonard  
• Pico Hirsch  
Stacy Joyce  
• Emily Gabrielsen  
George Tataris  
Karen Lencoski  
• Anna Podsiadlo  
Gal Miller  
• David Brinkley  
Lilli Dick  
• Dein Radcliffe & Maria Poulos  
Laura Johnson  
• Amy Cranford  
Barb Glomski  
• Alana Stewart  
Jim Campbell  
• Michael Rand  
• Minna  
Ruth-Kay Erickson  
• Marty Scullion  
Ma McKenna  
• Martina Connors  
Shawn & Joanne Connors  
• Ma, Bratus, & Villain  
Jim Cosentino & Liz Malecki  
• Luther & Greta Levy  
Pamela Ginsburg  
• Lorri Thorpe  
William & Mary Thorpe  
• Lolita Das  
Brandon Lemley & Jennifer Wu  
• Leona Lemanski  
Glen & Mia Gale  
• Casey Lean  
Lorraine West  
• Ellen Ziemek  
Debra & Virginia Braschel M. Tyson  
• Susan Barcus  
• Koda & Charlie  
Jean Sagerer  
• Max (Joan Levergood’s Dog)  
Melvyn & Susan Weissberg  
• Jane Ferguson  
Hugh Ferguson  
• Hope  
Linda Viska  
• Harvey  
Jeanne Lamping  
• Gabriela Kanagalingam  
Tejal Shah  
• Frances Deering  
Janet Olson  
• Fern  
Chuck & Micki Kacmar  
• Esther James  
Gal Miller  
• Dennis R. Schaeffer  
Mary Schaeffer  
• Denise Mass  
Ed & Susi Levin  
• Corrie Larzar, 1988-2009  
Jonathan Kreissler & Vera Maecckelbergh  
• Barbara Ward de Funik  
Carol Zaksis  
• Mike Rocheleau  
Purr-fect Pals, Inc.  
• Richard Glaser  

IN HONOR OF…  
• Maya  
Frank & Virginia Fortenese  
• Timothy Leary, Meese, Baby P.  
Patrick & Garcia  
• Terri Treiman  
Jon Tinker & Mallory Kulinski  
• Michael Wasserman  
• Benjamin “Buzzy” Bohlen Imm  
Marcelo Tomada  
• Buzz Bohlen  
Therese Corber  
• William Babcock  
Robert Babcock  
• D-Day  
Robert & Rose Wagner  
• Sydney of Tree House  
Martha Ribeiro  
• Mr. Gary Watkins  
Eric Watkins  
• Daniel Pyne  
Michael Wasserman  
• Ms. Debbie Plotkin  
Andrea Toback  
• Hanke & Guerrero  
Donna Renee Smith  
• Virginia Kaufman  
Mary Kaufman  
• Heather Mitchell  
Gerald & Wanda Mitchell  
• Stanley  
Judith Mogol  
• Gregory Vlach  
Michael Wasserman  
• Pontiac  
Alyssa Silverman  
• Mina Knuth  
Carol Stegall  
• God Parents  
Michael Baffes  
• Sparkle  
Susan & Ray Glend  
• Sam Hammett  
Donna & Ron Myslowicz  
• Leslie & Gegee’s 35th Anniversary  
Susan Mazer & Janet Norton  
• Marlene Stenberg & Karen Kellner  
Leslie Fisher & Catherine Borovina  
• Leslie & Gegee’s 35th Anniversary  
Toni Chan & Alice Tse  
• Ashley Fowler  
Michael Wasserman  
• Barb Robinson  
Nancy Lodl  
• Mike Sheridan  
Hiram Emery  
• Matt Bush  
Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC  
• Mary Jerome-Pasqual  
Ralph & Dolores Babel  
• Milwaukee  
Barbara Kaufman  
• Arvy Gurvis Bret Heiar  
Debra Sharpe  
• Cagney, Laurie, & Lacey  
Janet MacDougal  
• Tracey & Steven Halfman  
• Wilma Wabnitz’s Birthday  
Anne Riley  
• Blacky & Tuggy  
Robert Meyers  
• Julia  
Luann Moeller  
• Marmalade & Venus  
Victoria Carole Holdsworth  
• Mr. Edward Scullion  
Jennifer Gilbert  
• Sylvia Felin  
Kathryn Brimm  
• James & Susan McDonough  
Michael Wasserman  
• Anchorage Animal Care & Control  
Marjorie Carter  
• Piddy  
Sandy Christafferson  
• Brian  
Sandy Christafferson  
• Stacy Worthington  
Leslie Lahr  
• Erin Valentour  
Lisa Heissey  
• Erin Valentour  
Susan Shachtman  
• Suzan Cubbski  
Janice Klein  
• Irene Unso  
Kathleen King  
• Heather Koffman  
June Post  
• Mr. Heathen/Tim Post  
Gale Schettmeyer  
• Mia & Mica  
Judith & Phillip Kefer  
• Keith Watts  
Michael Wasserman  
• Jaker, aka Converse, and his brother, Batman  
Michael & Rhoda Schlesinger  
• Jenny, Joan, & Tree House Clinic Staff  
Wendy Gruen  
• Hollis Johnson  
Michael Wasserman  
Gimlet, Garno, Gallo, Georgiana, & Gibbles  
• Wendy Gruen  
Debert and his sisters, Rosie & Angel  
Michael & Rhoda Schlesinger  
• David Kostush  
Janis Guggenheim  
• Carol Fisher  
David Williams  

IN CELEBRATION OF…  
• Andrew & Rebecca Blanda Frey  
Evan & Nina Weiss-Karie  
• Murray & Moe’s 11th Birthday  
Barbara Jaobson  
• Myka’s Birthday  
Jeanne Freed  
• Jon Tinker’s 50th Birthday  
Dianne Spenn  
• Ed Grant’s 75th Birthday  
Carol Neer  
• Betsy Nickerson & Linda Buotz-Wedding  
Susan Goedke & Chris Woodard  

To add a tribute message to Tree House News, we request a gift of $50 or more. To include a photo with your tribute message, we request a gift of $100 or more. We can also send a tribute card to anyone you designate. Feel free to use the enclosed envelope to make your tribute gift. Thank you!
OUR ‘CAT’ALOG
TOYS, APPAREL, AND MORE

NEW HOLIDAY ITEMS!

A. Tree House Holiday Cards............................................................................... $10.00 each set of 12
NEW - Tree House Cats Photograph Designs
Happy Holidays Design, (4 styles) ........................................................................... Item #605v1
Merry Christmas Design, (4 styles) ........................................................................... Item #605v2
Happy Hanukkah Design, (4 styles) ........................................................................... Item #605v3
Shelly Atkinson Lights of Love Illustration
Happy Holidays Design ................................................................................................... Item #606v1
Merry Christmas Design ................................................................................................. Item #606v2
House Lights Design ..................................................................................................... $5.00, Item #604v1
Cat in Basket Design ....................................................................................................... $5.00, Item #604v3
B. 2013 Tree House Calendar ................................................................................... $5.00 each
C. Cat Ornaments
Three Wise Cats ........................................................................................................... $5.00, Item #554
Plush Cat with Snowflake .............................................................................................. $5.00, Item #555
Plush Cat with Jingle Bell .............................................................................................. $5.00, Item #556

For full descriptions, and to see more items, please visit our website:
TreeHouseAnimals.org
HOW TO ORDER

1. Fill out order form completely, including street delivery address. Specify items to be sent to other persons. Gift wrapping not available.

2. Calculate shipping fee with easy chart below.

3. Send order form with full payment, including shipping. No billing or COD. Do not send cash. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

#1 Ship to Person Ordering

Name
Street
Apt.
City State Zip
Daytime Telephone
(required for credit card purchases)

#2 Ship to Different Address

Name
Street
Apt.
City State Zip
Sign card from Date to Ship
(optional—for gift order)

Method of Payment
☐ Check or Money Order enclosed (Sorry, no CDS or cash)
☐ Charge to:  VISA MasterCard American Express Discover
Card Number Exp. Date
Signature (required)

ORDER FORM

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SHIPPING INFORMATION

We ship UPS in the continental U.S. Extra $1.50 fee for orders to Canada, Hawaii, APO & FPO, D.C., Boxers and Parcel Post (where UPS does not deliver). These shipments take an additional two weeks. Shipping charges to foreign countries quoted upon request. Use a street address (your business address, if necessary) for fastest service.

EASY SHIPPING/HANDLING/INSURANCE CHART:

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CHARGE BY PHONE FOR FASTER SERVICE

Call 773-784-5488 ext. 238, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday, to place merchandise orders by phone. Or you may fax your order to 773-784-2332 any time. You may also order on our secure website: TreeHouseAnimals.org.
HAPPY ENDINGS

Caliby originally came to us in March of 2003 when she was found by two Tree House employees, abandoned in a carrier. She was understandably very upset and our clinic staff was unable to handle her at all. Although she never became tolerant of exams, during her time at Tree House we got to know her as the sweet, fun, silly girl she is.

We were increasingly charmed by her nutty personality here at Tree House. Very fond of people, Caliby was curious about any new visitors who came into her room. However, she was quite overwhelmed at the shelter and would get over-stimulated with a lot of petting, letting you know with a swat or a bite when she had had enough. It was a complete delight to watch Caliby play. Known to have bouts of excited energy, she would race about the room in a frenzy -- often chasing nothing that the eye could see. Over the years, many people who visited appreciated her endearing antics, but no one ever decided to adopt her.

Caliby just loved her dry cat food. So much so, that she ended up having trouble grooming herself because she gained too much weight. Eventually, she was moved to our Sequoia colony room, where she was on an all wet food diet. When she started losing weight too quickly, she started getting a small amount of dry food to supplement. Still, Caliby loved the game of trying to escape to the next room to make it to a bowl of dry food. Many visitors may remember her slipping past them to take a big bite of dry food in the next room, growling and crunching in enjoyment, knowing her time was limited until she was escorted back to her room.

A couple of months ago, Caliby was moved over to our Bucktown Branch’s all wet food room. We hoped the calmer environment there would be good for her high strung ways. It turns out that one of our volunteers and repeat adopters, Duffy O’Connor, was also getting ready to make a change. He was finally in a position to adopt Caliby after many years of wanting to and was preparing to take the plunge. Caliby is now living the good life as a house cat with her Tree House alumni brothers, Elliot, Ned, and Jimmy Bean.

Not long after going home, Duffy sent this update:

“Caliby is doing well and getting more and more comfortable in her new home...She is less and less guarded with me the longer she is here and is very cuddly. And I get Caliby kisses every day! I’ve wanted to adopt her for such a long time that it didn’t seem real at first. But it is a dream come true for both of us! She loves the sparkle balls [Tree House volunteer] Bill Johnson gave her as a housewarming gift and special thanks goes to [Tree House clinic staff member] Gretel for driving us home. I love my sweet wildcat Caliby!”

Caliby is one special girl. We are so happy that she found a home with an adopter who will fully appreciate her for who she is.