



# The CATS' CRADLE

*"To help bring about a time when no more abused or abandoned cats will be destroyed"*

Lynda Garibaldi, Founder

[www.thecatcradle.org](http://www.thecatcradle.org)

June 2010



## SAM SEZ . . .

"They're everywhere! They're everywhere!" They show up on college campuses (and that's not a safe place for kittens as we have found out) and show up at abandoned houses (thanks to Karen Curtis Gwynn and family for feeding 4 cats at an abandoned house in Drexel). Springtime means not only flowers, but pregnant cats and mama cats showing up everywhere looking for a safe place for their kittens.

Most of these are homeless strays, like the sweet black mama cat who showed up for food at the empty house by the car wash. Then there's the mama cat who brought her kittens to Joshua Raymond, who is fostering them for us. Another mama cat and her kittens are being fostered by Stephanie Moore and her family.

They also show up at restaurants. A few people told us about a half dozen cats at Olive Garden and Wendy's and the mall in between the two restaurants. But when Sue Zarcone and Sheridan Kirby started trapping and transporting these cats for spay/neuter, they discovered a lot more than the reported six cats. It was more like 20, with one of them pregnant and another with kittens. Many thanks to Sue & Sheridan who have caught 16 of them so far.

Needless to say, *Cats' Cradle* needs everyone's help more than ever to care for this spring and early summer crop of kittens. Please support our efforts to save all that we can. Their need is so great. Thank you!!!



## Cats Comfort Elderly Woman During Her Last Days

My 92 year-old mother lived with us the last year of her life. The week my mom was dying (she passed Mar 11, 2010), Beckley (one of our permanent cats) shadowed me for 3 days. He then spent the next 3 days on Mom's bed. He and Manx were both with her all day the day she died. It was really touching to me that they held vigil with me and her beloved sitter, Becky.

There's a recent book called *Making Rounds with Oscar* about an otherwise unsocial cat in a nursing home who kept death watches with the patients the few hours preceding their deaths. I highly recommend it to all animal lovers as well as to anyone dealing with a loved one with dementia.



Stephanie Moore

*Manx & Beckley keeping watch on my Mom's deathbed.*

## 1st Annual Greater Hickory Pet Expo

**June 5-6, 2010**



The 1st Annual Greater Hickory Pet Expo will take place June 5th and 6th at the Hickory Metro Convention Center. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday the 5th and 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday the 6th. *Cats' Cradle* will participate, so be sure to come by and check out our booth to support the cats we rescue and shelter. If you can assist with this event, contact Jean Thorne at [j.thorne@yahoo.com](mailto:j.thorne@yahoo.com) Thank you for your support!

# Adopted!

Thought you might like to see pictures of Charlie (formerly **Hugo** of **Cats' Cradle**).

Kristie  
Adoption Mom



Just updating you on **Izzy**. I feel she has adjusted perfectly! As you can see, she is a very strict supervisor in our sock folding activity in the Dollar household.

Hope all is well and Thanks again for Izzy and what you all do for the animals!

Regards.... John



*Izzy, adopted by John & Lisa Dollar, is shown here relaxing in her new home.*

Happy Valentine's Day, **Cats' Cradle**! We wanted to let everyone at **Cats' Cradle** know that **Anya** is doing fantastic. My kids love her very much. I'm glad that we were able to adopt Anya and give her a happy home. Thanks, **Cats' Cradle**.

Love, the Vang Family



**Sweet William** is one of the cats trapped at the Olive Garden in Hickory. Nola Soots is one of the people who told us about the cats there. She had seen one with an injured leg & paw and offered to foster him.

Unfortunately his injuries could not be corrected by surgery so he has a permanent disability. But that didn't keep Nola from loving him and giving him a forever home.



I took some pictures of **Domino** and Tigger playing tonight. I think little Domino gets more comfortable every day.

Alexandra M. Krobatsch



*Domino and Tigger playing*

**Zephyr**, adopted by Michelle Witke, is relaxing on the recliner



# Cat Siblings Adopted!

**Merlin, Manx** and **Tuffy** were from the same litter and were all adopted by Phil Mell. They were the most easygoing, congenial batch of kittens we've ever had, Stephanie Moore reported. Thanks, Phil!



*Merlin on the hearth being lazy.*

*At right, Miss Tuffy "helping" Alvin Moore on the computer.*



*Below, Manx relaxing(?) on the couch -- I'd have a crick in my neck for sure if I slept that way!*



## Rescue Cats and Disease

ANY rescued animal should be checked for infectious diseases before exposing your children or other pets to them.

Cats in the wild almost always have worms. When they have a lot of parasites, their coats will be dull and coarse, and their bellies may be bloated. Once they are given worm medication, you will see white worms in the stool. They should be kept separate from healthy animals for at least 48 hours to allow the worms to pass. The worm medication will need to be repeated, possibly more than once. Follow the instructions on the particular medicine you use.

They are also prone to ear mite infestations. If they shake their heads and/or scratch at their ears a lot (many will scratch until they bleed), check for ear mites. The mites are tiny and white, but the visible symptom is dark brown or black crud in the ear(s). Ear mites are contagious among animals and should be treated with ear mite drops in the ears.

Finally, they will almost always have fleas. Fleas hide pretty well, but you can detect them by using a fine-toothed comb on the cat or by looking around the head and the "bald" spots around the ears and in the crevices where the legs meet the body. They are reddish-brown jumping insects and are quite hard to kill (if you can even manage to catch one). Fleas will lay eggs in rugs and upholstered furniture and also bite humans (as well as carry diseases) so you definitely want to take care of any flea problems! The life cycle is about 3 weeks, so you'll probably need to treat again 3 weeks after the first treatment and then again 3 weeks after that.

Do NOT give any cat in poor health or under 6 months of age a strong flea medicine like Revolution or anything pyrethrin based (like most flea shampoos). Fleas drown when exposed to soapy water, but they need to be in it for about 8 minutes to do a good thorough job of killing them. You can bathe the cat/kitten in warm water (same temperature as you would a human infant) and dish soap, being careful not to get water in the cat's face or ears (use a damp soapy washcloth to wash the cat's face and then rinse and wring out the washcloth and rinse the soap off the cat's face), rinse them to get all the soap out of their fur, and dry them gently with a towel and then a hair-dryer on low (if the animal permits). The animal can then be lightly misted (on their body and legs only) with some kind of flea and tick mist/spray. Spray a small amount in your hand and wipe around the head and ears avoiding the eyes and mouth.

Closing of the "third" eyelid and pale mucous membranes (gums and ears) and low weight can be symptoms of parasitic infection and dehydration, but may indicate other problems too. Dehydration is serious and can quickly lead to death. If a cat does not pass urine in 24 hours and does not drink in 24 hours, you need to call a veterinarian and ask what to do.

Stephanie Moore

## Cat Fatalities In Pounds

Euthanasia in animal control pounds & shelters is the number one documented cause of death of all cats in the U.S. For feral cats, the kill rate in pounds rises to virtually 100%. Millions of cats are killed every year behind closed doors. Only a handful of states require pounds & shelters to report the fates of the animals they take into custody. In 2007, over 81% of cats entering government-funded animal pounds and shelters in North Carolina were killed. **In Burke County 2,362 cats were killed. In Caldwell County, 2,381 cats were killed, and Catawba County, 3,084 cats were killed.**

Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws, Cat Licensing, and Cat Leash Laws force even more cats into these facilities. These laws impose a financial burden on taxpayers and existing government budgets. To have a real impact on neuter rate of cats, resources should be directed to spay/neuter programs.

Veterinary studies show that stray and feral cats' incidence of trauma and disease is low, and their infection rate -- 4% -- rivals that of the pet cat population. Spay and neuter of feral as well as owned cats is the only humane solution to cat overpopulation. Many animal control facilities operate on the notion that if a cat can't live in a human home, it's best to kill her. They use anecdotes of sick and abused stray cats to extrapolate that millions of these cats are better off dead than alive. But research shows otherwise. Further, a recent national public opinion poll shows that 81% of Americans believe it is more humane to leave a stray cat outside to live out her life than to have her caught and killed.

Source: [www.alleycat.org/netcommunity/Page.aspx?pid=402](http://www.alleycat.org/netcommunity/Page.aspx?pid=402)

# Sable's Story

When **Sable** arrived at our house, it was evident she was severely malnourished -- she was so bony it was hard to touch her and she weighed next to nothing. Her gums and the inside of her ears were extremely pale. She was unable to regulate her body temperature, her "third" eyelid nearly covered her eyes, and she was dehydrated. Her rescuer had taken her for her initial vet visit and she had been wormed and tested negative for infectious diseases.

When I discovered fleas on her, I risked bathing her in warm water and dish soap because fleas can kill very young and very weak cats. Because she is long-haired, I didn't realize until she was wet exactly how emaciated she was. I wish I had a photo of her wet to show you. Her shoulder blades stuck up and there was a deep crevice between them; all her ribs showed. She was pathetic!

Our vet said she was at least 6 months old because she had her adult teeth, but she weighed only 3 lb, 4 oz instead of the usual 6-8 lbs that one would expect at that age. We gave her some fluids with an eye-dropper and kept her on a heating pad (set on the lowest setting and covered with a towel) to help her body temperature stay up, but she was unable to keep much food down for a couple weeks. In fact, at first she did not want to eat or drink. As she felt safer and warmer, she began to eat more. The poor little thing was so hungry, she'd try to eat again right after vomiting. We tried everything -- canned food, dry food, people food. What would stay down one time would come right back up the next. The last 2 days we had her, we finally discovered raw egg (for protein) and sour cream would stay down. She ate an entire 16 oz container of sour cream and 2 or 3 eggs in one day!

After 3 weeks or so, she had gained 10 or 12 oz, which our vet said was good. For various reasons, we ended up sending her on to **Cats' Cradle**. Before she was then routed to a foster home, Lynda reported that Sable loved all flavors of Fancy Feast canned food and ate like a pig.

Hopefully she's had no further problems with vomiting, loose stools or failing to use the litter box. We are very thankful for her improvement. I don't know how much longer she would have survived had she not been rescued.



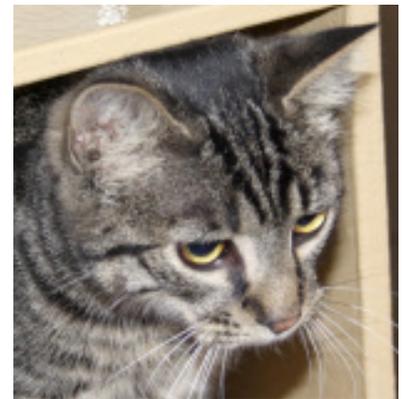
*Sable before -- about 6 months old and a little over 3 lbs when we first got her -- pitifully bony, but now doing better. She is very sweet and loving and will need a kind compassionate home especially if her digestive problems continue.*

# Awaiting Adoption

**Molly** -- DSH, black and white, spayed, all shots, negative for feline leukemia. DOB approximately 5-01-09. This beautiful little girl was dropped off near the home of a friend of **Cats' Cradle**. She spent a month in the freezing cold before becoming tame enough to be brought indoors to a foster family. It didn't take her long to become a house cat. She loves to be loved on, purrs, rolls over at your feet and in general is a perfect little lady. She's a quiet kitty, laid back and easy going. She accepts what she offered with gratitude and purrs. She'll sit in your lap and take her nap there, come when you call her (most of the time) and gets along with other cats. Can you give her the loving home she deserves?



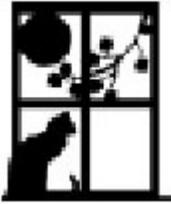
**Babe** -- DSH, grey and black tabby, neutered, all shots, negative for feline leukemia. DOB October 2009. This beautiful boy is the sweetest thing. He's a real love bug. Probably because he was bottle fed when he was tiny which makes him think he really part human. He loves to snuggle and play. Do you have room in your heart for this little guy?



# To Be Adopted One Day!

Here's a picture of **Callie** (short for Calico) and her four 3-week-old kittens we got around the first of May. The little orange male is "Pounce," the tiger striped male is "Stripe" (for now), the all black female is "Beauty," and the dark tiger stripe female is "Princess." In four months the kittens will be neutered and ready for adoption.





# Cats' Cradle

112 Clark Street • Morganton, NC  
28655  
828-433-4925 • 828-328-1279

<http://www.thecatscradle.org>  
E-mail: [garibaldicat@gmail.com](mailto:garibaldicat@gmail.com)



## Donation Form

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!

Yes! I want to help *Cats' Cradle* care for cats!

Please add me to your MEMBERSHIP (tax-deductible)!

Individual \$25 Yearly Membership

Family \$50 Yearly Membership

Sponsor \$100 - \$250 Yearly Membership

Sustainer \$250 - \$500 Yearly Membership

Patron \$500 - \$1,000 Yearly Membership

Benefactor \$1,000 - \$5,000 Yearly Membership

Lifesaver \$5,000 - \$10,000 Yearly Membership

Lifeline \$10,000+ Yearly Membership

I have already paid my lifeline for the year.

I am enclosing an EXTRA tax-deductible donation of:

\$10

\$100

\$25

\$500

\$50

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I ONLY want to donate

(tax-deductible) to support the cats!

\$10

\$100

\$25

\$500

\$50

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am making a montly tax-deductible PLEDGE to support the cats!

\$10 a month (commitment of \$120 a year)

\$25 a month (commitment of \$300 a year)

\$50 a month (commitment of \$600 a year)

\$100 a month (commitment of \$1,200 a year)

\$500 a month (commitment of \$6,000 a year)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I want to contribute to "JERRY'S FUND" in the amount of:

\$25

\$500

\$50

\$1,000

\$100

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I want to contribute to the BUILDING FUND in the amount of:

\$25

\$500

\$50

\$1,000

\$100

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I want to learn more about what I can do to help *Cats' Cradle* as a VOLUNTEER!

I want to learn more about what I can do to help *Cats' Cradle* as a FOSTER CAREGIVER!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You  
For Your  
Support!**

Attn: Linda Collins, Treasurer  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & MAIL TO: *Cats' Cradle*, P.O. Box 2813, Hickory, NC 28603

# Donations

## Since December 2009 Newsletter

### Donations in Kind:

All our foster people donate funds to cover the cost of food & litter for the cats they foster plus they and others cover costs for feral cats. Many of them also donate funds to cover vet bills and enlist donations from their friends.

### Other In Kind Donations:

Margaret Causby & First United Methodist Church for copying  
David Cortner for website administration and calendar design & layout

Leila M. McMichael for newsletter design & layout

Pam Nims for Newcomers Ad

John Payne Photography for professional photography for cat calendars

Joni Stone for cat adoption flyer and poster creation; and coordinator of the TNR study (Trap/Neuter/Release)

Jean Thorne for photography and biography submissions to **Cats' Cradle** website and media

### Monetary Donations:

We appreciate every single donation, but we especially want to recognize those who donate so regularly and generously, many for several years:

Norma & Richard Blackburn

Jeannie Bowman

Carolyn Burgess

Carlton & Karen Clark-Carusio and family

Linda Collins

Steve & Holly Farlow

Jeff & Maria Helton

Sarah & George Johnson

Brenda Kincaid

George & Alice Kopacki

Charlotte McMillan

Tom Pearse

Jerry & Lois Clark, Linda Clark, and Mary Lou Price

Nancy Puckett

Rose & Ed Romo

Madge & Ernest Roseman

Charlotte & J. M. Simasek

Jean & Michael Thorne

Mavis Tuclluck

Keith & Lynn Whisenat

Inma Williams

Sue & Jim Zarcone

### Other Donations in 2010

David & Evelyn Alderson

Elaine Bass

Peggy Baum

Susan, Sarah & A.P. Brown

Patricia Campbell

Teresa Causby

Tina Clement

Shelby & Ben Cornwell

Roger & Marcella Deal

Carol Dern

Toni Dills

Jacqueline Doherty

Christina Dunfee

Tom & Kathy Ferrante

Syd Gebara

Rachel & Harper Harris

Terry & David Hedrick

Rhonda & Joseph Hollars

Dean Johnson

Bill & Nancy Jones

Gary & Gail Ketchie

Mary Ann Kirby

Libby Linker

Pam Manfredi

Patty Moffatt &  
Steve Noggle  
Monica & Gary Olinger  
Jonnie Pons  
Genni & Bill Poteat  
Danny Power  
Ruby Prewitt  
Vesta & Lon Pyatte  
Pat Quake

Jane Rawson  
J. Keith Satterwhite  
Angela & Robert Simmons  
Linda Stephens  
Joni Stone  
Carolyn Tawney  
Ken & Candy Webb  
Wm & Cynthia Whisenant  
Barbara Williams

## We Need Your Help

Feral cats . . . .

Some agencies ignore them . . . .

Some agencies Kill them . . . .

## Cats' Cradle

Traps, Neuters and  
Releases Feral Cats

*Your donations help us to achieve this goal: To save the lives of Cats who have been abandoned and to ensure that they won't multiply and have more unwanted kittens.*

### Relocation

*We also need places to relocate these feral kitties. Relocation requires time and attention to the cat(s) for about a month, then when they are released, they will need food and water.*

Lynda Garibaldi  
Executive Director  
828-433-4925  
garibaldicat@  
gmail.com

Linda Collins  
Treasurer  
PO Box 2813  
Hickory, NC 28603



*"To help bring about a time when no more abused or abandoned cats will be destroyed"*

# In Memory

**Lucky** was the first cat who lived at the Valdese Cattery, built in 2000 by volunteers Mike Jackson & Steve Noggle. Steve found Lucky, then a feral cat, at Century Furniture Warehouse. Feral no more, Lucky lived a good long life and spent his last year with Helen Wisener's son, Jamie, and family. Lucky died from an inoperable tumor between his ear and eye. Rest in peace, Lucky.



## In Memory of People

Tommy Marlow, husband of Barbara Hill Marlow,  
by Linda Collins

Clifton Warlick, Father of Clifton Warlick, by Linda Collins  
My Aunt Juanita Brittain by Lynda Garibaldi  
Lynda's Aunt Juanita Brittain by Linda Collins  
Kit Overton by Karyn Lookabill

## In Memory of Pets

In Memory of our beloved 7-year-old cat "Matthew" who died of kidney failure by Norma Blackburn

In memory of "Rip" by Ginny Donohue

In memory of Dennis & Sandy Powell's two wonderful dogs, "Purdy & Sam" by Karen Clark-Caruso

In Memory of our beloved pets "Nicole & Bianca" by Jaye & Susan Whitmire

In Memory of my beloved cat "Jacob" by Becky Sharpe

In memory of our beloved cat "Buddy" by Karen Clark-Caruso

In Memory of "Buddy" by Elaine Bass

In memory of many beloved cats who have touched our lives:

Sooty, Chatty, Checkers, Sprinkles, Bear, Clawdius, Heckle, Gretta, Blossom, Leila, Shelby, Hawthorne, Hazel, Tangerine, Shannon, Elena, Sarah, Grace, Survivor, J. B., Jalapeno, Pickle, Jeremiah, Taylor, Scooter, and Lucky by Lynda & Lisa Garibaldi

## In Honor of Pets

In honor of Karen & Carly Caruso's cats by Jerry & Lois Clark

In honor of Brian & Linda Clark's cats & dogs by Jerry & Lois Clark

In honor of our cats Bonnie & Stanley by Karen Clark-Caruso

In honor of Dennis & Sandy Powell's "Demon Cat Lucky" by Karen Clark-Caruso

In honor of my great cat Millie (adopted from **Cats' Cradle**) by Madeline Walle

In honor of the Olive Garden Cats by Nola & Charles Soots

In honor of Little Guy & Polka Dot by Joni Stone

In honor of Polka Dot by Christina Dunfee

## In Honor of people

In honor of Linda Clark & Karen Clark Caruso by Jerry & Lois Clark

In honor of Linda Clark's birthday by Karen Clark-Caruso

In honor of Dennis & Sandy Powell by Karen Clark-Caruso

In honor of Linda Grafstein, Kathy, & Will McDowell (Goldie's Family) By Linda Stephens

"In honor of Jean Thorne" by Jacqueline Doherty

"In honor of Linda Collins" by Ruby Prewitt

"In honor of Linda Grafstein, Kathy, & Will McDowell, "Goldie's" Family by Linda Stephens



**We can't explain to them  
that they don't have a  
home because the  
economy is bad**

**More pets are being abandoned  
because their owners were forced  
out of their homes, or they can no  
longer afford to feed them.**

**They need your help ...  
and we do too.**

**We need:**

**Foster homes to care for abandoned kitties  
until we can adopt them out**

**Volunteers to help with adoptions, cleaning  
cages and other services**

**Donations of \$ or supplies to help care for  
rescued cats**

**If you love animals like we do, don't assume  
someone else will care for them. Please help  
however you can. If you want to help,  
volunteer, foster or adopt, please call**

***Cats' Cradle***  
**828-433-4925**

**Visit us online at:  
[www.thecatcradle.org](http://www.thecatcradle.org)**

# Caring For Infant Unweaned Kittens

As SAM SEZ, there are many, many kittens being born this time of year. Considering the various circumstances these helpless babies will be found in, it is especially important for foster families to know how to care for infant unweaned kittens.

First, before they eat, they must be kept *warm*. Place them in a box with a heating pad set on low and covered with a towel. Part of the towel should be off the heating pad in case they get too warm so they can crawl off.

Kittens younger than a couple of weeks need to eat *every two hours* (remember that mama cats nurse their kittens constantly for the first couple of weeks). You can get KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer) from a vet clinic or from PetSmart or Petco. You can also use goat's milk, which can be bought in the specialty milk section of most grocery stores.

Feed them with a pet nursery bottle or a dropper. When the kittens are about 3 weeks old, add *baby rice cereal* to the KMR or goat's milk.

Diana Rath cannot take every kitten who needs nursing but she will be glad to advise anyone who is nursing them. She also has a formula that you can make that works as a good substitute for commercial KMR. Diana's phone # is 828-437-6971.



112 Clark Street  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828-433-4925  
www.thecatscradle.org

## Jesse Sigmon

### High School Senior and Dedicated Volunteer

Jesse Sigmon is a senior from East Burke High School who is doing her senior project with **Cats' Cradle**.

Jesse has been helping out with adoptions on Saturdays at PetSmart. Her family fostered and then adopted "Tom Cat" (below) She and her family are also fostering another stray she has named Jamaica. A woman named Susan King took care of Jamaica's vet bill -- had him tested, neutered, shots -- before Jesse took him.

More recently, Jesse took in a pregnant cat, Bonnie, that Jean & Michael Thorne have agreed to foster (thank you, Jean & Michael). Jean reports that Bonnie's kittens are now 4 weeks old and running around the room.

Jesse also visited one of our foster homes and two catteries. She is so enthusiastic about our work for cats that she plans to continue volunteering with us after she finishes school.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Jesse, and thank you for your hard work for **Cats' Cradle**.



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**OUR MISSION: "To help bring about a time when no more abused or abandoned cats will be destroyed"**