www.thecatshack.com catshack@ptd.net 2606.789.018 TREXLERTOWN, PA 18087 PO BOX 950 THE CAT SHACK

Visit www.goodsearch.com and choose THE CAT SHACK as your charity of choice!

They now also have another way for The Cat Shack to earn funds - by shopping on-line at "Goodshop".

The Cat Shack receives donations

free, and you can use it just like

YOU SEARCH

Google!

WE





Cat Shack Ingüirer

From Highway to Help

Kindhearted strangers connected through social media to save Juliet, a cat stranded on a shoulderless stretch of I-95.

Sometimes it just takes a thread of kindness connecting strangers (and the advent of social media) to make miracles happen—or so one such kitty, Juliet, recently experienced firsthand. While the circumstances behind the hows of her situation are still a bit cloudy, what is known is that Juliet somehow ended up stuck behind a chain link fence on the side of a shoulderless stretch of I-95 in Philadelphia. But with the help of the swift, gutsy work of a group of kind souls, including Cat Shack volunteer Wendi Miller, Juliet is now safe and sound in the hands and hearts of a Cat Shack foster family.

A quick run-down of the courageous work that went into her rescue: On a recent Saturday afternoon, Wendi signed on to Facebook after work to notice a friend, Michelle Helms, had posted a link to a Craiglist ad titled "cat stuck on I-95."

"A woman living by an overpass on I-95 heard a cat meowing loudly. When she went out to check, she saw a cat stuck on the overpass, about 35 to 40 ft up," explains Wendi of what she learned from reading the ad. "The woman had no idea how to help this cat, so she posted a craigslist ad asking for help."

From one act of kindness to another, it didn't take long until Wendi herself was out on the road, as she happened to live just a few miles away from I-95. (Before she left the house, Wendi texted her spouse Carol, then updated Michelle, who passed along the info to the Craigslist poster that a possible rescue might ensue.) Thinking only of the poor cat's predicament, Wendi "grabbed a cat carrier, a flashlight, and off I went."

Wendi's first few passes by the supposed area the cat was stuck, between the Alleghaney and Girard exits, proved fruitless. Undeterred, Wendi kept checking her phone for any updates on the cat's whereabouts (where she also learned that the original Craigslist poster had called fire, police, and city shelter personnel for assistance, all who declined to get involved).

Realizing she might just be the cat's last hope, Wendi looked up to see her search party had suddenly grown by three: Carol had driven out to assist, as well as another couple, Jennifer and Chris Augustin, who had heeded the Facebook calls for help. After a third pass, Carol spotted the cat, "sitting on the edge of the overpass, on top of the cement edge about 3 ft high, on the other side of a chain link fence... the side that faced a 40-ft drop!" explains Wendi.

Traffic was heavy, the daylight was fading, and the roadside was dangerous, with roughly a 2-ft shoulder where the cat was thought to be stuck. After some quick discussion, the group decided to pull over at the entrance ramp, which allowed more of a shoulder for safety, and then Wendi, Jenn, and Chris—along with a cat carrier—quickly but carefully walked the harried half mile along the side of the highway to where the cat stood.

"Meanwhile, on the ground, the woman who'd originally posted on Craigslist was watching for us, cheering them on," said Wendi.

When the group of rescuers finally got to the cat, they found she was on the other side of the chain link guardrail/fence but had walked from the middle of the fence to the edge, where there was about a foot-long opening and a lightpost. "I have no idea how she knew to walk to the opening," says Wendi, but it made for an easier grab.

Still, the danger remained: With one wrong step, the cat would fall 40 ft down from the small ledge. With Chris keeping a steady eye on traffic (as it was now dark), Jenn oh-so-

continued on page 4

Summer 2012

Looks What Inside:Ask Albert: Advice on how
to refine your CATTITUDEpage 2Special Thank Youpage 3Available Catspage 4Adoption Info
Mission Statementpage 6Eventspage 7





Keep up to date on all the GREAT Cat Shack happenings throughout the year. Please send your name* and email* address to catshack@ptd.net to receive our e-newsletters and updates.

*Addresses are for Cat Shack use only and will not be sold or used for any other purpose.

ASK ALBERT



An open letter to my loyal followers.

Dear reader,

For many years I have educated you, entertained you, tugged at your pathetic heartstrings, probably confused you (due to the very limited intelligence of the human species), made you laugh, made you cry and received not nearly enough tuna in return. Despite the fun and folly we've had these many years,



I am considering resigning my post as SpokesCat and Supreme Ruler of The Cat Shack.

Why, you may be asking, as you rise from the floor following your collapse after reading the above words (or having them read to you). Well, it seems as if the strange humans who work for me (collectively known at The Cat Shack, individually known by many different names which I haven't taken the bother of actually learning) have officially lost their minds.

Now Albert, I can hear you say, didn't these foolish people lose their minds many, many years ago? Touche, clever reader. My, my, look at you – didn't realize you had such perception. Why yes, they did. But they have taken things to another level, one that is difficult for even a true genius like me to fathom. Have you seen who they are rescuing these days? It's one thing to focus their pathetic little existence on felines (under the correct pecking order, of course, rescuing orange and white cats first, then white and orange cats, then orange cats with white on their chest, then white cats who are really mostly orange, etc.). But a quick search of their cyberspace informational forum (sometimes referred to as a Webpage, though for the life of me I don't know why - I've stared at it for hours and have yet to even see an insect, much less indulge in the delicacy of a tasty spider, though to be honest I've grown tired of the whole hunting ritual and would much rather be served while enjoying a nice mocha latte) reveals that The Cat Shack has the audacity to place a couple of dogs up for adoption (Please visit thecatshack.rescuegroups.org for more information. Shameless plug but tuna was involved - I'll say no more). And apparently we've placed rabbits, chickens, even a cow, for heaven's sake. How can a group that has donned the moniker "The Cat Shack", emphasis on Cat, rescue dogs and cows? How absolutely absurd. (My goodness, I've used two words consecutively that start with the letters "abs". How incredibly remarkable is that. You don't deserve me.)

Well, I will not stand for this. Cats are superior creatures and do not deserve to share their plight with any other living or non-living thing on this planet. What's next? "Please help little Dottie. This poor elephant was found alone, helpless and scared by one of goodhearted volunteers, who couldn't just leave her in that African safari to fend for herself with other creatures just like her. She's good with dogs, up to date on her shots and weighs thousands of pounds. Please consider giving this wonderful animal her forever home." I will protest this latest turn of events with a hunger strike that will last at least for the next few minutes. And if such behavior continues, I will resign my post and you will forever lose my wit and incredible wisdom. It may already be too late. Send me all of your tuna, at once, and I'll reconsider.

Yours truly,

Albert Cat. p.s. Don't forget the tuna.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

KEEP THOSE REDNER'S REGISTER TAPE RECEIPTS COMING IN!!!! We have made over \$200 so far to help our kitties! Please give to any volunteer or mail them to the address below.

We have the following Drop Off Locations for the register tapes:

- ~ Perkiomen Animal Hospital
- ~ PetValu East Greenville
- ~ PetValu Gilbertsville
- ~ Runaway Farms Pet Hospital, Red Hill, PA

Mail receipts to Lori's address at 3115 Oxford Circle, Allentown, PA 18104.



continued from page 1

carefully reached around the fence with one hand and picked up the cat, lifting her around the lightpole and into the carrier to safety.

With cheers from the dear Craiglist poster who started it

all, the threesome quickly and carefully made their way back to their cars with the cat safe.

Where did the name "Juliet" come from, you might ask? Once Wendi and Carol got home, they realized that Grannie Juliet, a 22year-old cat rescued from a shelter in New York City, had passed away. Grannie Juliet (with her mom, Amanda), who also happen to reside in Philadelphia, inspired a rescue movement for older cats and spent her time in her new home making people on Facebook aware of the plight of senior cats in shelters all over the country.

"What better tribute than to name our new rescued cat after Grannie Juliet?" says Wendi.

All because social media connected a group of concerned citizens who couldn't bare the thought of a poor defenseless animal, stuck alone on I-95. No longer-today Juliet resides with Cat Shack foster mom Tracey Hartley and her family, nursing a broken tail-and a mending heart from whatever circumstances led her to that fateful highway spot—until she's ready to embark on her next great adventure: finding her forever home.

ture and even with intensive bottle-feeding efforts could not be saved.

~ by Juliann Schaeffer

A Cat Named Coffee

Parker, Linda Kloran and MaryJo Demski.

road again! Coffee is available for adoption now!

Calendar of Events

For a complete list visit www.catshack.com

Night at Rita's Thursday, August 9 🍄 6-9 p.m. Rita's in Pennsburg

Tractor SupplyNationwide Adoption Event

Saturday, August 18 🌺 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Tractor Supply, Hamilton Blvd., Trexlertown

> Pride in the Park Saturday, August 18 🍄 12-6 p.m., Cedar Beach, Allentown

Vegfest Saturday, September 8 🕸 11-6 p.m., Bethlehem

LVAH Paws in the Park

Saturday, September 22 🏶 1-6 p.m., Macungie Memorial Park

Dine to Donate at Saladworks

Tuesday, September 25 🏶 5-7:30 p.m. Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown

For more info or to volunteer, please contact Lori at 610-390-3466.



~ By Theresa Clifford

The Cat Shack is NOT just about cats!

We all know that The Cat Shack is a cat rescue, right? Well, of course it is, but our dedicated rescue volunteers don't always stop there. Over time, we have posted a number of other types of animals on our site - and have found them homes - dogs, miniature horses, goats, miniature donkeys and even a 1000 pound steer! Right now, one of our volunteers is fostering two wonderful young dogs who are urgently in need of loving homes and you'll find them posted on the Cat Shack website. They are Fritz, an exuberant, 8 month old Border Collie/Box mix puppy (we have DNA testing that proves Fritz's breeding!) and Thelma, a delightful 1 1/2 year old Whippet mix who loves to run as fast as she can go, and she is FAST! Both dogs love people and are anxiously waiting for their own special person or family to adopt them.

A recent caller to the Cat Shack indicated that a friendly stray had been badly injured by a car. Not only was her front leg mangled, she was also giving birth to kittens! One of our wonderful phone volunteer, Jo Cunningham, quickly got the word out about this urgent situation. Board member Trinka immediately helped to get the injured cat and kittens to Perkiomen Animal Hospital. The mother cat, now called Coffee, was so badly injured she needed to have her front limb amputated. Unfortunately the kittens were prema-

Fortunately, Coffee guickly recovered from her accident and subsequent amputation! The Staff at Perkiomen Animal Hospital performed the emergency vet work and they capped the bills at a reasonable

all of the vet work needed to save this special cat. They are: No-Kill Lehigh Valley, Rosie Farber, John Williamson, Kathy Molohon, Don Schiele, Christine Haycox, Marianne Harrington, MaryAnn Grant, Cindi

Now in foster care, Coffee has shown herself to be a sweet cat that is always seeking attention. Even though she lost a leg, this cat will make a wonderful house pet and will never need to dodge cars on the

So, when you think about rescued cats, think about The Cat Shack. But don't rule out the other possibilities too. You never know for sure what other kinds of animals might also be appearing on our website! 🌋





WAYS TO HELP

Our Mission: To help reduce the unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable cats, to reduce the cruelty to and neglect of cats and to educate the general public in cat related issues.

The Cat Shack, Inc. is a no-kill, non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt cat rescue organization. We attempt to find permanent homes for stray and unwanted cats and kittens.

Prior to adoption, all cats are neutered/spayed and updated on required vaccines. All our cats are tested for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immuno Deficiency Virus (FIV).

The Cat Shack serves to place three CATegories of needy cats:

* Friendly strays and kittens looking for safe, permanent homes

* Feral (wild) strays who are not suitable for inside homes and who seek safe, permanent barn homes where they can be employed as mousers. There is no adoption fee for barn cats though donations are appreciated.

* In an effort to help people place pets that they can no longer keep, we will post the cats picture/story and the owner's contact info. These cats are NOT being adopted through The Cat Shack and the adopter will deal directly with the owner. These cats will have an asterisk (*) next to their names.

THE CAT SHACK PO BOX 950 TREXLERTOWN, PA 18087

□ Mouser Mate: \$15.00 □ Pussy Cat Pal: \$25.00 □ Kitty Kat Kompanion: \$50.00

Cat Shack Champion: over \$50.00 Other:

□ I want to volunteer (transport animals for & from surgery, do laundry used at adoption centers, process adoption applications, assist at PetSmart (Whitehall), conduct home visits, foster, assist at events, return phone calls to help line, and more!

Address: _____

City, State, Zip:

Donations are tax deductible.

	_
VISIT OUR ADOPTION CENTER:	The Cat Shack, Inc. would like to extend our gratitude for the continued support of the following:
	Lehigh Valley Animal Hospital
	Macungie Animal Hospital
PetSmart -2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall	PetSmart - Whitehall
	PetValu - Gilbertsville
	Perkiomen Animal Hospital
	Phillips Feed

Of Special Note...



Amy Susan Sullivan and her family adopted Cat Shack kitten Vitamin in 2011. The family were wonderful owners and Amy sent frequent pictures and updates about this adorable baby. We are sad to report that Amy Sullican, only 46 years old, passed away suddenly, but peacefully, at her residence on Monday April 16, 2012. She was an amazing adopter and a strong supporter

of many organizations. She is pictured with her daughter and their kitty, Vitamin, whom they adopted from TCS last August. In lieu of flowers, Amy's family have requested donations to Allentown Central Catholic High School and the Cat Shack in Amy's Memory. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

MaryAnn Steeley conducted a Trap/Neuter/Release with the help of the Cat Shack in 2008. We are sad to report that MaryAnn passed away on June 8th, 2012 at age 78. She loved gardening and birds, and had a great passion for animals, most especially for her own feathered and feline friends. Mary Ann greatly enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, especially her "51 Card Club" and her high school and Chalfont Elementary classmates. Her daughter Renee told us that MaryAnn wanted donations to be made to The Cat Shack in lieu of flowers for her memorial. MaryAnn was such a nice lady and we so sad to hear that she is gone.

Thank you...we don't have enough room in this issue to thank all the volunteers!

In this issue we would like so send out a special thank you to our phone volunteers **Carol Fredericks, Wendi Miller and Jo Cunningham** for performing an invaluable service by returning calls to the Cat Shack help line, an often difficult and time consuming job, for over a year now. We also want to thank Jo Cunningham for participated in a matching gift program through her employer, ExxonMobil, and submitting her phone volunteer hours to benefit the Cat Shack. Through this program Jo has contributed \$2500 to the Cat Shack! Thank you Jo and ExxonMobil Foundation Educational Matching Gift Program.

In May, Cat Shack volunteers **Dawn McDermott and Crystal George** asked for donations to their favorite charities in lieu of gifts for their commitment ceremony. They presented The Cat Shack with over \$1100 to assist in the dental surgery for foster cat Agatha and for eye surgery for foster Tonto! Dawn and Crystal have recently purchased plastic cat banks to place in area businesses (shown here at Macungie Animal Hospital) We greatly appreciate the time and money that they give to our organization! Thank you!

Thank you to young volunteer **Alexandra Seybolt** for volunteering her time at the Petsmart in Whitehall and also for doing a donation drive for the Cat Shack. The cats were very appreciative of the food, treats and supplies! Alexandra Seybolt was an 8th grader at the Swain School in Allentown.



And as always thank you to our vets -Perkiomen Animal Hospital, LVAH, Macungie Animal Hospital, Petsmart, and Phillips Feed.

Our **Fundraising and Events volunteers** have been hard at work coming up with ideas to let the community know about our organization. We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers, so please contact me if you want to help!

The Cat Shack has started a pilot program of visiting Emertus Retirement Home in Allentown with our friendly foster cats. Once a month, we will be taking our foster kitties to visit with the elderly residents. On June 6th, volunteer Nancy Faust (aka Mom!) and Lori Moyer-Wolfe took foster Rudy and former Cat Shack Cat Kai for a visit. The residents LOVED petting them!!! If you have fosters or previous Cat Shack cats that



you would like to bring along, please let us know. These Residents were so appreciative and happy to have a kitty to cuddle even just for a little while.

We have had a few great fundraisers since the beginning of the year. Saladworks on Cedar Crest has been very generous in allowing us to host an event there twice a year. In March, we raised almost \$200! The Rita's in Northampton has also been a great supporter of The Cat Shack---we even bring kitties in their beautiful air conditioned party room! In May we raised \$200 and enjoyed lots of yummy ice and talking with the visitors.

We would also like to take this time to thank our AMAZING **Petsmart Volunteer Committee** and foster homes for keeping the adoption center full of adoptable cats, visiting the adoption cages to care for the cats twice a day and staffing the adoption table at the Petsmart every Saturday. YOUR efforts have helped to find homes for 53 cats so far this year! In addition, the Cat Shack has received \$1830.00 in donations from Petsmart charities as of May 2012. Without your efforts, far fewer cats would have found homes! Anyone interested in helping to maintain our adoption center at Petsmart or assisting with any other Cat Shack volunteer activity should contact our volunteer coordinator Therese Ciesinski at shilohsgarden@yahoo.com.

Thank you to **Destiny Heimbecker** for posting well written weekly picture ads of our adoptable cats in the Morning Call Paper, Stephanie Jamiolkowski for taking beautiful pictures of our adoptable cats, and Juliann Schaeffer for producing excellent articles about some of the Cat Shack's special rescue situations.

The Cat Shack has NO paid staff and all of the work we do is accomplished through the efforts of volunteers and the donations from businesses and individuals. We can not thank ALL of you enough and there isn't enough space here to thank everyone individually. We would like to highlight just a few of our volunteers and supporters in each issue of our newsletter.



A special thank you to *LVCART (Lehigh Valley Animal Response Team*), for their O2 Oxygen Mask Campaign fundraising efforts! All of Lehigh and Northampton County fire stations will have pet oxygen masks for their fire trucks by the end of 2012. The masks fit dogs, cats, birds, ferrets and rabbits. Visit www.lvcart.org to learn more.

Available kitties looking for their forever home!

Liberty ·

My name is Liberty! I was a very young mommy who did my time on the streets digging in dumpsters to try and feed myself and my kittens. I love my life indoors and I am incredibly affectionate. I will become your permanent buddy and my favorite past time is to sit and snuggle! Liberty is 2 yrs old, spayed, current with vaccines, and has tested negative for FIV and FeLV.





Paris

My name is Paris! I am a beautiful grey and white striped female and I am about 9 months old. I like to talk when I want your attention and I love a good lap to curl up on! I am spayed, current with vaccines, and has tested negative for FIV and FeLV.

Zeva

My name is Zeva! I was found along with my brothers, sisters & mommy living under a shed. My mommy and 2 siblings have been adopted and now it is my turn! At first I am shy, but once you pick me up and I feels safe, I am a complete love. Zeva is 1 yrs old, spayed, current with vaccines, and has tested negative for FIV and FeLV.



Kittens Galore!

The Cat Shack has been hit with an overload of kittens this spring. If you or someone you know is interested in adopting a kitten, please suggest that they visit the Cat Shack website at www.thecatshack.com and our adoption center located in the Petsmart in Whitehall PA. Pictured below are just a few of the available FeLV/FIV tested, vaccinated, dewormed, flea treated and altered kittens waiting for new homes. Don't forget that young kittens must have another feline playmate in the home, so if you don't have a cat already please consider adopting a pair!

Razzberry was saved from a short life as a garage cat and now ready to grace your home as the pet of your dreams.

Leroy and his 4 siblings are ready for a new home Rosebud, Fuzzball and Nimbus were born inside a foster home. These 8-week-old kittens with the spotted bellies are super sweet and ready for a new home!

Adoption Updates



Amber (AKA Alberta) was rescued from a kill shelter after she was placed on the euthanasia list. The shelter was over-full and this young cat caught the dreaded shelter cold. Luckily this particular shelter tries to find alternatives to euthanasia and they reached out to the Cat Shack rescue seeking help for this sweet girl.

Thankfully, Alberta recovered from her cold quickly and started to make

the steady progress to regain her strength and trust in humankind. Over the next several months Alberta continued to endear herself to her foster family. It was discovered that this nurturing young cat LOVED kids and could often be found interacting with children, allowing herself to be carried around and even sleeping in bed with "her" kids. We knew she needed to be adopted to a family that wanted a lap-cat and, hopefully, would have a gentle child for Alberta to call her own.

It took almost 11 months for the perfect family to come along, but

it was so worth the wait! Bonnie, who is retired, and her husband Gerry had 2 cats already but they felt their younger cat Sadie really needed a playmate. They also had a granddaughter that often came to visit and loved to play with the cats. We thought Alberta was the perfect cat for their situation and from this update is appears Amber hit the jackpot!

"Hi Theresa,

Just wanted to give you an update on Amber. She's doing fine. She loves her new home and actually, her and Sadie are warming up to each other, chasing each other all over the house!!! She's become very vocal! Maybe hears Sadie talking all the time? Loves to play with toys.

I've attached some pics...(one w/our granddaughter Lindsey). She seemed to really like Lindsey.....went right over to her and sat on her lap for a long time. Lindsey loved it.....She really, really loves my husband. As soon as he comes home from work, she's following him all over the place! When he sits down, plop, she's right on his lap! She's a "keeper". Bonnie

Please Help Little Teddy!

Little Teddy was found at a small engine repair shop in Eastern PA. The kittens there were very sick and the owner was only willing to feed them. All of the adults were TNRed by a Cat Shack volunteer and the kittens came into foster care. While the other kittens recovered with standard vet care, Little Teddy continued to fight his battle to live and ended up spiking a dangerously high fever. He was rushed to an emergency care vet hospital on a weekend where it was discovered he also was FIV+.

Poor little Teddy had developed pneumonia, but with intensive care at Perkiomen Animal Hospital, Teddy was able to win the battle. Eventually his fever came down, his lungs cleared and he is now doing MUCH better. That is the good news for Teddy, however the bad news is that the Cat Shack's bill for intensive care ended up totaling in excess of \$1500 and there may still be ongoing bills to recheck his x-rays to be sure his lungs have cleared. We've raised \$900 of this bill at the time of printing. All donations to this 501(c)3, non-profit group is tax deductible.



~ By Denise Heimbach

Our Christmas Miracle

This past holiday season saw its own special kind of Christmas miracle, when a kind-hearted soul halted her own holiday happenings to rescue a poor, defenseless kitten just before Christmas.

That thoughtful person was Emma Ville, the owner of the gift store Cottage in Emmaus, who happened to be driving down the town's main street the afternoon before Christmas Day, when she saw a tiny black kitten crouched in the middle of the road. Without a second thought—and with cars speeding by on either side—she stopped her car in the middle of the road (and in her haste forgot to put it into park!) and quickly picked up the kitten, safely getting them both back in the car.

"Then she called me," says Cat Shack volunteer Therese Ciesinski. "I was Christmas shopping at Macy's."

As Emma couldn't tell how badly the kitten was hurt and had other family obligations to tend to at the moment, Therese asked Emma to leave the kitten, who couldn't have been more than six weeks old, at Cottage, where she would then pick her up. With a homeless and hurt kitten requiring her assistance, Therese's holiday shopping would simply have to wait.

"I cleared taking the kitten to Perkiomen Animal Hospital with Theresa Clifford, who called to notify them we were on the way," says Therese. "I found the kitten at Cottage, crouched in a huge overstuffed chair, very much alive, eyes open, but quiet and not moving."

After being examined at Perkiomen Animal Hospital, it was determined that the little kitten, named Noel for her Christmas Eve rescue, had a broken jaw, possibly from being hit by a car, as no one can know for sure. However, besides from having to wire the bottom half of her jaw together, the kitten was—amazingly in great shape physically.

With a few quick e-mails, Theresa found a foster home in Cat Shack volunteers Julie and Scott Schaeffer of Macungie, who agreed to take in little Noel and give her some much-needed love and care—an act they saw as their own little Christmas gift to themselves. They quickly found that, while she looked to be such a sad sight with her poor jaw wired shut, you wouldn't know it from her demeanor. She was the kindest, sweetest girl and ended up giving at least as much love as she received.

After a few follow-up appointments to ensure her jaw was healed properly, Noel—who was thereafter named Dahlia Noel to

distinguish her from another samenamed cat at the time—was swiftly adopted a month or so later by one of Scott's coworkers from Northampton, who was looking for a playmate for her kitten.

Dahlia Noel survived whatever circumstances led her to that dangerous street on Christmas Eve and found a forever home, thanks to kind souls and thoughtful hearts—another Cat Shack miracle indeed.

~ by Juliann Schaeffer





