



A publication of The Cat Shack, Inc.

Cat Shack Inquirer



Fall 2011

Introducing the Prudence Memorial Fund!

~ Inspired by a Special Cat to help the most medically challenged



The Prudence Memorial TCS Emergency Medical Fund is a special fund based on donations to aid in the emergency veterinary care of The Cat Shack foster cats who have very severe medical conditions and need life saving but very expensive treatment.

The fund has been started in memory of a brave and tiny girl cat named Prudence. Prudence was just 12 weeks old and was found in the woods by her future adopter who was also a TCS volunteer. She was alone in a drain with a week old compound fracture of her right foot and a laceration to her face, malnutrition and a bacterial infection. She must have been trapped and released herself and was somehow able to survive.

Unfortunately, the doctors were not able to save her foot, but they were able to save her life. Her back right leg was amputated, and her lacerations and her infection were successfully treated and with the help of The Cat Shack, her foster mother and a lot of TLC, Prudence grew up to be a wonderful, healthy and adjusted tripod kitty. There was no stopping her! Her foster mother became her adopter and the story should end happily there.

But, In July 2010, when Prudence was not quite 4, she was diagnosed with Lymphoma in her nose. Not fair for a little tripod lion girl. Her adopter took her for cancer treatment and the tumor was gone. Prudence was a brave little girl through her treatment and had no side effects. What a survivor!

In December of 2010, the lymphoma returned in her kidneys, but this time the treatment was not successful. Prudence and her adopter tried and tried. She lost her battle with Lymphoma and went to sleep on April 27, 2011. Many of the people she met along the way commented on her tenacity, her spirit and her will to live. Although Prudence could not win her last battle, her adopter feels that some cats do not get the chance to fight because life saving treatment can be unaffordable. Prudence had almost five wonderful years of life and love thanks to The Cat Shack and donations from the community to help with her life threatening injuries. Her adopter would like to return that blessing and continue that possibility by maintaining a resource for The Cat Shack to help other adoptable cats and kittens that have life threatening injuries and illnesses that are treatable. In that, Prudence can pass on that incredible spirit.

The cats and kittens of The Cat Shack would like to send out a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to Sarah and Prudence for their inspiring idea. The future of cats that might not have otherwise received care will certainly be impacted through this fund.

Tax Deductible Donations to the Prudence fund may be mailed to the Cat Shack address or made on-line through this chip-in link:

<http://thecatshack.chipin.com/prudence-memorial-fund> 🐾

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The Cat Shack



Santa Paws

(pet photos with Santa)

December 3 & 4, 11am-4pm

PetSmart in Whitehall

&

Saturday December 10th,
2011 9:00 AM until 03:00 PM
Macungie Animal Hospital

(proceeds benefit The Cat Shack)

ASK ALBERT



Busy time in the rescue business. No time to waste with an intro – let's get right to your questions. **Albert, is that you starring in the new Puss and Boots movie?**

I swear it was you. As a fellow handsome, charming, sophisticated and, dare I say, a bit arrogant orange feline, I can see why you made that mistake but did you see those ugly boots? For the love of God, I would never be seen in public wearing something that hideous. No, dear reader, I prefer to leave the house in nothing less than my \$700 pair of Berluti loafers – sleek, comfortable, good traction to allow me to slip out of the harness the pathetic humans try to corral over me when I am outdoors, a futile attempt to stifle my creativity.

But I digress...I should be in pictures, of course, and will one day appear on the silver screen, preferably in my own adaptation of "To Kill A Mocking Bird". The plot is much different than the original and I end the movie rather satisfied, you know, from a hunger perspective.

You've been involved with cat rescuers for over a decade. How have they evolved over the last ten years?

They have not. I have studied these creatures with a strange mix of curiosity and disgust. What I have concluded in these many years is that they are odd. Have you seen their Facebook posts? Check out this post from one of my rescuer friends (Note: I use the term friend to refer to not a real friend but a remote acquaintance on a social media site who I've never met and would rather have sharp pins stuck in each of my eyes, repeatedly, than be seen out in public with)



Albert Cat

Yawn- long day.

Like · Comment · September 11 at 10:39pm · ❄

Oops, sorry that's my post. Wow, look at how handsome I really am. I always knew I was attractive but that picture is just stunning. Count your blessings, dear reader, that you have the good fortune of such beauty introduced into your dull existence.

Anyhow, I saw one rescuer post the following items, all within 10 minutes of each other:

- A video of cute kittens running around in circles.
- Lamenting about who their life was forever ruined because a bro-

ken fingernail – on their pinky finger, for goodness sakes

- A desperate plea asking for help to save all of the stray cats in a 2000 mile radius
- A post telling us how lucky they are and how grand their life is
- A post telling us how unlucky they are and how unfair their life is
- Another video of cute kittens running around in circles.

I mean, please, enough already. Psychologists would have a field day with these people. I know, they well meaning, kind, compassionate and are really trying to help us. Clearly, they should stick to feeding us tuna and occasionally petting our soft, irresistible fur. Leave the important stuff to us cats, ok?

Albert – who's your favorite football team?

Very good question. I am a huge football fan – humans intentionally trying to injure each other while throwing a ball around – brilliant. I'm a Broncos fan. (See, you thought I would choose the Panthers or the Jaguars – such a simple-minded species you humans are.) No good reason, really. I like their uniforms.

Out of room, my furless, unfeathered friends. I bid you farewell, until next time...

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

KEEP THOSE REDNER'S REGISTER TAPE RECEIPTS COMING IN!!!! We have made over \$150 so far to help our kitties! Please give to any volunteer or mail them to our PO Box.

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

Or contact our volunteer Denise at deoldedog@windstream.net

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Music Concert to Benefit Us!

On November 18th at St. Bernard's in Bethlehem, there will be a Punk Rock Benefit concert for the Cat Shack. I am a somewhat new volunteer and foster mom who tried to think of some new ways to help raise money for the cause. This concert is especially to benefit special needs cats.

I first contacted the Cat Shack when calling every shelter in the area to find a foster home for a pregnant cat outside, her name is now Cocoa. The Cat Shack was the only one who said they would take her and let her have her kittens. I donated what I could at the time but offered my services as a volunteer to help out in other ways. A month before I even found this pregnant cat, there had been three other kittens born outside to another cat. These three kittens were eating in my yard and they all had a slight eye infection, but one of them did not clear up and instead took a turn for the worse!

I was again in touch with the Cat Shack but they did not have any open foster homes. Once I got the okay, I had to catch the kittens and rush them out to Perkiomen Animal Hospital. Poor Scarlett, as I began calling her, had a ruptured eye and needed surgery to remove it. The other two checked out fine and came home with me. Later that week I got Scarlett back. The vet said as soon as they gave her pain medication, she was happy and friendly. She continued to recover as my foster and was adopted on October 16th to a very loving family!

Scarlett is the inspiration for this benefit, there was no time to



raise money before but hopefully this benefit can help raise a good deal of money to pay her bills and get the Cat Shack caught up on the rest of their veterinary bills. The Cat Shack takes in cats other shelter won't and helps them recuperate and trust humans again. The flyer for the show includes a sketch of Scarlett. The Cat Shack has gone way over the amount of money they have brought in this year because of their compassion to help as many cats as they can. Please join us on Friday, November 18th at 7pm to raise money for the Cat Shack. All benefits from the concert and raffle go to the Cat Shack. 🐾

~ by Erika Mohr

A Variety of Treatments for Ringworm

We never dreamed what a learning experience it would be when Cat Shack volunteer Ann McGee took on a litter of kittens with a fungal infection (ringworm) to prevent them from being euthanized at a local shelter! This type of fungal infection is not life-threatening, but in this case it was very resistant to treatment. We were "lucky" enough to learn about the wide array of treatments available for ringworm and what works best in the foster-home setting. Happily all of the kittens have recovered well.

One of the infected kittens was purposely adopted before she was cleared of the fungal infection. This adorable little calico's adopters, Jed and Laci Schaible, happen to both be veterinarians. Jed and Laci co-founded a website called vetlive.com and they were more than happy to take this little rescue kitten and help her fight her fungus.

Laci recently sent us this wonderful adoption photo and the following note outlining the therapy that worked to eradicate this fungus.

Laci said "We used a number of therapies: compounded oral itraconazole from Wedgewood Pharmacy (fish flavor--the kittens LOVED it) was what really did the trick. I read a lot about compounded itraconazole being controversial whether or not it works, and we started off doing a couple sulfur dips, but the kittens hated it. It would get it in their eyes so we quit that. We were able to dab it on to their lesions, which isn't ideal to treat locally, but it's not an easy solution with kittens. I stopped topical conofite early in, as they screamed when I put it on. I also tried it on myself (I got ringworm too) and it really burns.

I found an journal article on ringworm in kittens that demonstrated that itraconazole is very safe if they are six weeks or older. Mackenzie was 6-7 wks when we started it. Griseofulvin is potentially bad, fluconazole is supposedly good, but itraconazole is the gold standard. It is better if you count out the little beads of the capsules and give

them individually, but it is supposed to taste absolutely horrible to kittens, so we chose the compounded fish liquid! Also when you give the liquid form, the dose is a great deal less so I felt more comfortable with that.

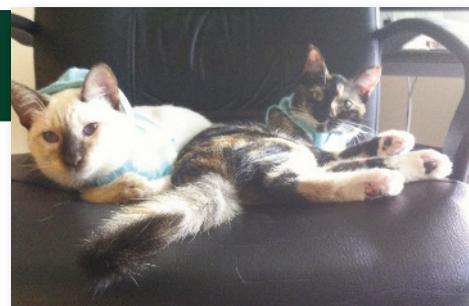
After Mackenzie was cleared up and we stopped the oral on both kittens, Rigby got it in three days. That tells me the oral itra was working because Rigby never had dips.

We then gave Mackenzie every other day dose of itra, and of course continued environmental contamination like our lives depended upon it. We also used over the counter anti-fungal spray for ourselves routinely and it made us feel a little safer, like a shield. We also would spray it on the kitten's bedding regularly. Don't know if it helped, but it made us feel better.

We were very happy with the itraconazole and the kittens actually miss it. They thought it was their daily treat. Also, it cost about \$30 and we only used about half the bottle for two kittens. We also used a wood's lamp (the ones that plug in pick up more strains) and luckily this particular strain of Ringworm really fluoresced so that was very useful in monitoring. I read also that color safe bleach at 2x concentration works as well as regular bleach so we bleached everything daily.

Even after they were cleared, we gave them malaseb/chlorhexidine baths 2x/week. I am sure there are fomites lingering around, but we luckily were able to knock it out in a little over one month.

Hope that helps some future ringworm kitty! Man it's tough stuff!
~ Laci Schaible, DVM, CMO and Co-Founder, VetLIVE.com, LLC 🐾





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!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Donations are tax deductible.

VISIT OUR ADOPTION CENTERS:

PetSmart -2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall
PetValu - 622 Gravel Pike, East Greenville

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 - Whitehall
PetValu - Gilbertsville
Perkiomen Animal Hospital
Phillips Feed



Volunteering and Donating For the Holidays

The Cat Shack is only as good as its volunteers--- and we think ours are the best! With the dedicated assistance of our volunteers, The Cat Shack is able to maintain the high quality of care our cats and kittens deserve. Volunteers and donations help to continue life saving work through innovative programs and services to the community. If you love cats and would like to make a difference in their lives, we would love for you to join our team! If you need volunteer hours for your school, youth group, or for community service projects; let us know, we can try to accommodate your schedule!

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- ~ Foster Parent: Provide temporary homes for abandoned and homeless cats/kittens.
- ~ PetSmart Adoption Center: Help with maintaining and cleaning our adoption center at PetSmart in Whitehall. Volunteers needed to clean in the morning and evening, seven days a week. This includes socializing and playing with the cats and kittens.
- ~ Application Processor: Contact potential adopters, call references, call veterinary reference, make home visits, and coordinate adoption between foster parent and potential adopter.
- ~ Fundraising: Assist with planning and participation of fundraising events.
- ~ Transporter: Transport animals to and from veterinary appointments, adoption events and adoption center.

- ~ Crafters/Sewers/Bakers: Bake or create crafts to sell at events
- ~ Hotline: Answer the Cat Shack phone lines, return calls, and deliver messages.
- ~ Newsletter: Assist with writing, interviews, pictures, and layouts.
- ~ Public Relations: Assist coordinating with the media; writing press releases, advertising, public speaking, etc.
- ~ Senior Foster Program: Perform monthly home visits, assist with "matching" fosters to cats, coordinate food/supply Deliveries.

Please contact Theresa at 610-967-9097 x3 or catshack@ptd.net.



Don't have time to volunteer?

There are other ways of contributing- not everyone can volunteer their time. We ALWAYS need both monetary and cat product donations. NEW/GENTLY USED ITEMS PLEASE!

Here is a list of our current needs:

- Scoopable cat litter or Yesterday's News Litter
- Dry cat/kitten food, treats
- Cat beds and toys
- Canned cat/kitten food
- KMR or Hartz kitten formula/kitten bottles
- Disposable gloves, hand sanitizers
- Pet carriers or cages
- Pet Wipes, kitten safe shampoo
- Bath Towels, blankets, disposable puppy training pads

Please contact Dan at 610-533-1618 for ANY questions or drop off in Allentown. Donations can also be dropped off at the PetSmart on MacArthur Road, Whitehall; Macungie Animal Hospital, Main Street in Macungie; Perkiomen Animal Hospital; and PetValu in Gilbertsville.

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION!



MAYA

Maya is a beautiful girl with soulful eyes and a sleek black coat. She was found in the freezing cold outside a restaurant in south Philly and has been in foster care since. Maya is less than a year old and is a total sweetheart that loves people. She is FeLV/FIV tested and negative, vaccinated and will be altered before adoption.

Interested in Advertising?



\$50.00 per ad
Business card size ads

**For more information or to
advertise email
catshack@ptd.net or call 610-967-9097**

Five Lifesavers for Cat Owners

Along with the joy and fun of living with cats comes the dark side: illness, litterbox troubles, unwanted creepy-crawlies. These five items make those inevitable unpleasant moments less unpleasant for both the cats and me, and so have become essentials in my house. I don't have money invested in any of these companies, their products just work.

1. Pill Pockets. Why did it take so long for someone to come up with these? A hollow treat that can conceal a pill, they make dosing a reluctant cat a non-issue. Ridiculously expensive at pet stores, some vets (including Perkiomen Animal Hospital) sell them half price or less.

2. Cat Attract Litter. What's in it, I don't know, but it sure works: one of my cats peed on the bag before I even opened it. This clumping litter is for cats that refuse to use their litter box. Petsmart is the only store I can find in this area that carries it. Again, expensive, but frequent sales, a petperks discount card, and the \$1 off coupon in every bag takes away some of the financial sting.

3. Puppy Pads. I wish I didn't need these, but one of my cats considers the world his litter box, despite the Cat Attract. Putting puppy pads in all his favorite haunts is saving my wood floors. The cheapest I've found are at Odd Lots on Hamilton Blvd. in Trexlertown: \$10 for a bag of 50. They're a bit thin, so you may

want to double up, but at that price they're still a bargain.

4. Ticked Off! The vet who introduced me to this said that whoever invented it deserved a Nobel Prize. That's for sure. No more fumbling with tweezers, pinching skin, or worrying that I didn't get the tick's head. Ticked Off! is a plastic teaspoon with a V-shaped notch cut into it. You scoop it up under an attached tick, its mouthpart slides into the notch, and the tick pops right off. Works on cats, dogs and humans, and on ticks of any size. I bought mine at Alburts Animal Hospital, but you can order them from ticked-off.com.

5. Feliway Pheromone Spray. Most cat owners know about this spray by now, a synthetic reproduction of the feel-good pheromones on the side of a cat's face that calm it down and reduce the urge to scratch or mark. It does work, but is expensive, up to \$30.00 a bottle. I skip the pet stores and buy it online through Amazon. The lowest price I've found is about \$16.00/bottle, and by buying at least two bottles I get free shipping.

Hopefully there's something new here that will make your cat-owning life easier. Are there products you've found that are lifesavers? Email them to shilohsgarden@yahoo.com and we'll print them in a future newsletter.

~ By *Therese Ciesinski* 🐾

Izzy & Norm's Story...A Happy Ending

Izzy is a very handsome 5-year-old white cat that came to the Cat Shack on Sept 16th, 2011 when his owner lost his home. Izzy's owner is retired and like many Americans these days, he had run into financial issues that culminated in the loss of his home. As a result, Izzy and 10 other cats were in urgent need of a new home and Norm was running out of options. The Cat Shack didn't have the resources to take all of Norm's cats into foster care, so they were immediately posted on our website as a courtesy and we went to work to spread the word about Norm's plight. Norm tells us that "The Cat Shack was the first group that returned my calls and to offer help. I can't thank them enough. Theresa returned my call the very day I planned to take my three oldest cats to be euthanized. I thought I had run out of options, but her call gave me hope."

Norm's cats were distributed to different adopters and rescuers. The Cat Shack took responsibility for Izzy, a handsome white cat that was Norm's buddy. Izzy was examined by Perkiomen Animal Hospital in Palm PA before he went into foster care with the Nino family and that is where it was discovered that Izzy was suffering from an ear mass down inside his ear canal. This was causing him discomfort and a chronic ear infection. The mass was removed at a cost of over \$700 and sent for Biopsy. We were all hoping that



the first surgery took care of Izzy's problem, but unfortunately the biopsy revealed that Izzy's mass was a locally invasive Ceruminous Gland Carcinoma. Izzy now needs a 2nd surgery to remove the tissue deep in his ear canal and he will need to undergo procedures called a total ear ablation and a Ventral Bulla Osteotomy.

Our vet feels that this delicate surgery needs to be performed by a specialist to minimize the possible negative side effects of surgery on the inner ear, such as balance problems. Without the surgery cats like Izzy could be expected to survive only 10 months, but with the surgery he could be totally cancer-free. The Cat Shack feels that this sweet, young cat deserves a full life and truley needs this surgery. We need to raise the \$1200 in order to finance this life-saving surgery for Izzy and we hope that our supporters will agree.

Thank you to RedRover lifeline grants, we have received a \$150 donation toward Izzy's initial \$700 surgery. Any donations to help cover his upcoming \$1200 surgery to remove every trace of the cancer will be greatly appreciated. With your help, we should be able to get Izzy back into tip-top shape and ultimately into a new home.

All donations are Tax Deductible! Please visit Izzy's Chipin to donate: <http://thecatshack.chipin.com/izzys-surgery-ceruminous-gland-carcinoma> 🐾

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!

A big welcome and thank you to our new Cat Shack volunteers!

**Sue Hohe
Robert Hotalen
Kerrie Lasso
Katie McGrath
Erica Mohr
Tara Mushko
Linda Torres
Zoey Przekurat
Alexis Stetz**

Great Volunteer Participation Throughout the Year!

Our dedicated volunteers participated in LOTS of great events the past few months! But this year was a new experience for The Cat Shack --- we participated in local PARADES! In March, we created "The Shack" to use on a float in the city of Bethlehem's first Parade of Shamrocks. It was a great experience for all of us, and we look forward to a tradition of participating annually. In October, we also had a "Kitty Cat Shack" float in the Upper Perk and Allentown Halloween Parades. The Cat Shack has been around for ten years, and this has been a great way to get the public more aware of our rescue!

In September, The Cat Shack also participated in another Bethlehem first---Vegfest! This animal friendly/vegetarian lifestyle festival had a turnout of over 10,000 people, and The Cat Shack made \$160 in donations. That money all went to help pay medical bills for all our great kitties looking for their forever homes.



Volunteers at the Halloween Parade in Upper Perk, St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bethlehem and Vegfest in Bethlehem!



Calendar of Events

For a complete list visit www.catshack.com

PetSmart Adoption Day

Saturday, Nov 12 🐾 12-2 p.m., 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

Benefit Music Concert

Friday, Nov 18 🐾 7-11 p.m.
The Burners (AKA St. Bernards)
333 Broadhead Ave, Bethlehem

PetSmart Adoption Day

Saturday, Nov 19 🐾 12-2 p.m.,
PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

PetSmart Adoption Day

Saturday, Nov 26 🐾 12-2 p.m.,
PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

Holiday Pet Photo Tree

Dec 1 - Dec 31 🐾 Regular office hours

Macungie Animal Hospital

Purchase a holiday photo frame to honor or celebrate your pets' life! \$5.00

Pet Photos with Santa!

Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4 🐾 11a.m.-4p.m.

PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

Pet Photos with Santa!

Saturday, December 10 🐾 9a.m.-3p.m.

Macungie Animal Hospital

Adoption Event at PetSmart

Saturday, Dec 10 🐾 12-2 p.m.

PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

Adoption Event at PetSmart

Saturday, Dec 17 🐾 12-2 p.m.

PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

A X-mas Closet

Saturday, Dec 17 🐾 8-10 p.m.

Rainbow Players Theater Co.

930 North 4th Street, 1st floor Allentown

Adoption Event at PetSmart

Saturday, Dec 31 🐾 12-2 p.m.

PetSmart, 2180 MacArthur Road, Whitehall

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

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE

The Cat Shack receives donations every time you use goodsearch to find websites or other information. It's free, and you can use it just like Google!

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

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



FREE
donations
appreciated

~ **Wanted** ~
HOMES

**for altered, vaccinated
Barn Cats**

Must be in safe
environment and fed.

www.thecatshack.com
or call
610-967-9097

THE CAT SHACK
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TREXLETON, PA 18087
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