



CARE Community Newsletter February 2012

**Cat Adoption & Rescue Efforts, Inc.
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Happy February, Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at CARE...

(To remove your address from the list, just send a message to: newsletter-unsubscribe@care-cats.org)



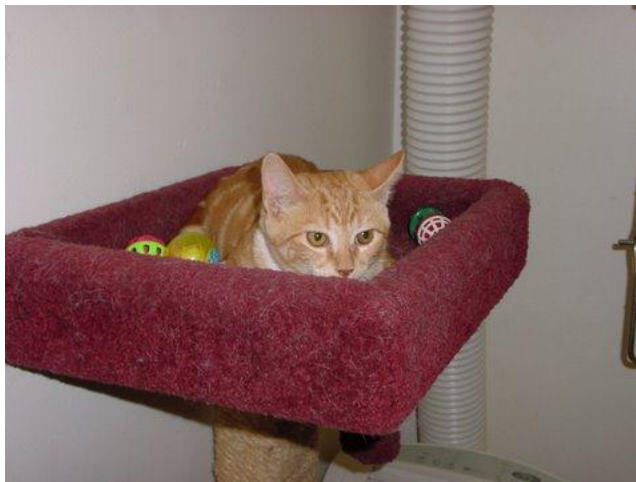
Napping is Big Business if You Are a Cat



Who does it better? Only bats, opossum, and the notoriously slow-footed sloth, all of which sleep 80 percent of their lives, catch more shut-eye. Although the number of hours a cat spends sleeping can vary considerably among individuals, most spend an average of 16 hours per day in slumberland.



Samantha and Sabrina catch some



ZZZZ's

Nice napping place, huh!



Trudy and Nadia nap after a busy morning of play

No one is sure why cats sleep as much as they do but many theorize diet plays a role. Unlike large herbivores who must graze for hours to supply their bodies with enough food, the cat's protein-rich diet does not require such an investment of time, and allows him plenty of time for napping.



Callie napping with a



friend

Kittens napping with a hot water



bottle

Twins snuggled in their cubby

Cats sleep on beds, tables, couches, window sills-anywhere that feels comfortable and safe and has the right temperature. Many cats' favorite sleeping spots are in their human's bed, preferably with their human, of course!



Roxie in her foster mom's bed



Satin in her foster mom's bed



Black Cat resting well



Willie aka "Copy Cat"

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Kidz for Katz

Calling all "kidz" between the ages of 8-14. Do you love cats? Do you want to meet and hang out with other kids your age that love cats? Mom & Dad, do you want a safe place where your children can learn about volunteering, fund raising & interacting with the public, while having fun? Then C.A.R.E.'s Kidz for Katz is the group for you!

Kidz for Katz are younger C.A.R.E. volunteers who help with adoptions and close down the stands on Saturdays. Quarterly bake sales, car washes, and other group fundraisers are additional ways they participate in helping C.A.R.E.

"Kidz Korner" is a monthly column in our e-newsletter where our younger volunteers can write about their experiences helping C.A.R.E. save cats.

If you are interested in learning how your youngster can participate in our Kidz for Katz program or would like to volunteer helping with this group please contact Alicia Crawford at info@care-cats.org. Or just stop by the bake sale Sat. Feb 11, 2012 and see our Kidz for Katz in action!



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Shop Online to Benefit CARE

CARE's new "[shop online](#)" page is live. Shop online at your favorite stores and earn money for C.A.R.E. Choose one of the online shopping links below, create an account & choose to donate to CARE, then shop. It's that easy. Shop online today!!



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Tax Breaks for Pet Foster Parents *by Amy Rossi (ohmidog.com)*Animal

foster parents can now claim expenses for their foster pets!

In a [landmark tax court case](#), Jan Van Dusen emerged victorious against the IRS. Van Dusen claimed many tax deductions on her 2004 tax return, for all the expenditures she'd put out for the 70 (yes, you read that correctly) stray and feral cats she had fostered, as part of her volunteer work with Fix Our Ferals, a non-profit California charity.

Van Dusen claimed over \$12,000 related to cat food, vet bills, garbage bags, and other items for her care of the cats. In 2009, a judge finally ruled that because her expenses were used toward a charitable organization, she was legally allowed to claim them. In fact, 90 percent of her vet bills, cleaning supplies, and food was tax deductible.

What does this mean for you?

If you've ever fostered an animal or know anyone who has, you're probably aware of the expenses associated with it. Beside just opening your heart and home to an unfamiliar animal, you also usually have to provide food, gas used to transport the animal to vet appointments or potential adopter meetings, and all the supplies that come with taking care of an animal.

"People have claimed these types of expenses before, thinking it makes sense because they're doing this service for a charitable organization, they should be able to recoup some of their out-of-pocket costs," said Rachel Hirschfeld, [estate planner since 1999 and pet trust lawyer](#) who created the Pet Protection Agreement found on [LegalZoom.com](#). Hirschfeld was one of the first in the country to focus on pet trust laws for the security of pets' futures in cases where their owners might no longer be able to care for them.

Hirschfeld is thrilled with Van Dusen's victory. "There are so many people who want to foster and help animals, and this ruling will make it easier for everyone. More people will foster knowing it's a legal expense and this will help the whole community," she said. She suggested that a great next step would be tax deductions for people even after they've adopted the animals. "If you're adopting from a charitable organization or shelter, you're really helping out the shelter. The whole world would be a better place if people adopted more animals." (*Side note: I adopted my foster dog, and would love to know I could claim her expenses! Wouldn't many of you feel the same way? I know I'm not alone as a "foster failure"*).

How to get the most money back

Hirschfeld has some tips for foster parents planning to claim deductions on their taxes.

- Collect and retain all your receipts associated with foster pet purchases
- Write a note on every receipt and be specific (i.e. if you go to a hardware store and buy cat litter or lights for the room the dogs are kept in, circle the items on the receipt and write a note about the purpose of the item)
- Remember that as of right now, the only tax-deductible purchases are for foster pets, not resident pets

"This is huge what's happened here!" said Hirschfeld, and encourages all pet foster parents to take advantage of this and share with all their animal networks to help raise the rate of fostering, and thus saving, animals in shelters across the country. "This shows that people are starting to really see animals as actual beings."

Ironically, Hirschfeld used to be terrified of animals. Now she tells the story of adopting her foster dog. "When you adopt an animal, it actually changes your heart."

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Skittles by Dianne Inman

My name is Dianne Inman and I have been a foster for CARE for seven years. During this time I have enjoyed the company of many wonderful cats and kittens; tiny 3-week-old orphans, very pregnant mom cats, nice adult cats, surly adult cats and all those in between. My home and my

life have been adapted to enjoy this experience. I can only say that through the illness of my husband and after his death and other losses that saddened my heart and soul, these furry Prozac, Valium animals made life tolerable and even pleasurable.

This is not a sad foster story. It ended too soon and the ending was not what I would have written, but this foster remains a highlight in my life.

When you try to explain to someone just what it means to foster a cat, kitten or other companion animal, the first questions you usually get is "how can you let them go after they have lived with you in your home?" It is easy to let some fosters go to a good home, and then there are those that are hard to let go or those you never let go. I have five fosters that entered my home and my heart and remain with me to this day as my adopted companions. Then there are fosters that came into my home and left that will always be special in my memory.

In 2010 I received a telephone call from Helen McIver regarding a potential foster. This was not just any foster, it was a very old cat named Skittles rescued from a cold, crowded cage at the Caroline County pound. She was about 17 years old but due to a very hard life appeared to be much older. Skittles was a blue gray short hair and she was very scruffy with two long teeth showing through the gray around her mouth. Even with this rough exterior you could recognize her dignified, gentle demeanor. She seemed to bear no ill will for the difficult road she had traveled, and she would absorb with gratitude every moment of affection you could give.

When I brought Skittles home my cats accepted her without any displays of hostility or rejection and she settled in comfortably on the second floor. I made her a soft bed in my office that I thought would be perfect for her aging bones and there was always food in her food bowl. I had to give her wet food because her mouth was in terrible condition and she had to take antibiotics before we could proceed with extractions and repair. After a while she did have dental surgery and ate with even more gusto and enjoyment. She would start to eat and then look up at me as if to say thank you.

Skittles was never taken to the adoption stand because I felt she deserved to have the home she must not have had for many years. She continued her days sleeping in the rays of sunshine that came through the blinds in my office and enjoying the luxury of good food and clean water anytime she wanted. After several months she became noticeably lethargic and visits to the vet confirmed that her body tired and worn from the rigors of being homeless was shutting down. She seemed to let me know it was time to let her go. She stopped eating and drinking, slept more and I could no longer see an interest for life in her eyes. Dr. Moyer gently assisted Skittles in her last moments and she breathed her final breath being gently stroked with love. Skittles died with dignity and she died with a name November 13, 2010.

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Adoption Spotlight:

PetSmart's recent press release announced 16,000+ adoptions during their nationwide adoption event in November 11-13, 2011. CARE participated in the event and was successful in finding 12 CARE cats forever homes. The next PetSmart Adoption Event will take place the weekend of February 10-12, 2012. Check out the [CARE Website event page](#) for more details. In the meantime, CARE has an adoption stand every Saturday at the Short Pump PetSmart. Here are a few of the wonderful cats looking for forever homes. Please visit [our website](#) to read more about these and other wonderful pets and to complete an [online adoption form](#).



Nosey Rosey and Tigress

Our owner died and left me (Nosey Rosey) and Tigress to “go it” alone. For the past six months, we were fed a couple times a week but had no human loving. I, Rosey, am doing well in my foster home but Tigress is really scared still. It would be nice for her if we could be adopted together. We are about 4 years old. Helen is our foster mom.



Sunny and Stormy

We are 1 ½ year old domestic long haired brothers named Sunny and Stormy because of our colors. We love to play together and chase each other around the house. Sunny loves to lie in the sunshine, Stormy loves to nap in his favorite basket. Sunny is shy and will hide around strangers but Stormy usually comes around seeking attention.



Harley

My name is Harley and I am a Persian male about eight years old looking for love. Who would have thought at this stage of life I would be single and in search of the “purrfect” match? As we all know life happens and here I am a handsome, affectionate, laid back kinda guy waiting on you to find me. I will admit I am a bit shy at first. But as it has often been said, anything worth having is worth the effort. The reward is my love. Are you a stable and loving human? Don’t want the energy of a kitten but an established mature male who is up to date on all medicals?



Dumplin

Hi, my name is Dumplin. I'm a sweet and handsome boy about 3-4 years old. I'm FELV+, but I'm very healthy and don't have any symptoms. I've been neutered and have all my shots. I love to talk and run around and jump and play. I've never been around dogs or children, so I don't know how I would behave with them. What I REALLY hope is that someone with a FELV+ kitty will see this and adopt me so I can have a friend to play with.



Mindy

My new name is Mindy – I used to be named Angel by my owner before my last owner. Janet has been my foster mom before. This last time I was adopted to a senior citizen who knew I am the “cat’s meow” and begged and begged to be allowed to have me as her only companion. I loved that time in my life! My sweetheart mom either went into a nursing home or died; no one will tell me the whole truth because they think it will hurt me too much. So, just after Christmas I was given to foster mom Janet and am loving her kindness toward me. I even get to sleep with her sometimes. I am a Siamese Mix with the crystal clear blue eyes (not deaf) of the Siamese and the coloration of a Siamese probably mixed with some tabby. HOWEVER, I have a small orange spot on my face which makes me probably ONE OF A KIND! I am about 5 years YOUNG. If I can be the only cat, I would love it; if there is another cat or a dog, I will adjust.

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CARE Recommends the Following...

Petsitters (Cats and Kittens Exclusively):

My Precious Kitty (www.mypreciouskitty.com), Donna Savory. Owner

Tree Climbing Service for Wayward Cats:

True Timber (www.truetimber.net)

Beaver Tree and Lawn (www.healthy-lawn-tree.com/tree-service-richmond-va/)

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Volunteer Corner

We Need Fosters for Dogs and Cats!!!

A foster home provides temporary respite for a rescued dog or cat, a safe haven where they can recover from the trauma of their past, learn new social skills, and prepare for life with their adoptive families. Fostering is a big responsibility but nothing is more gratifying than watching a once homeless animal blossom under your loving care. When you take a rescued animal into your home, you make the difference between life and death. You become a hero. To learn more about becoming a CARE foster mom or dad, contact Sandy Schneider at 262-5575, Helen at 355-1357, or Andrea at 262-8541.



Foster dog Darryl (who thinks he's a cat!)

We need help at PetSmart on Saturdays

We need help tearing down the cages at the end of the day (3:00pm). This is a great job for those who are not fostering but would like to help. Taking down the tables, cages, cleaning, sweeping, etc... is not a glamorous job, nor is it exciting, but it is really important since the cages draw people over to look and possibly adopt. With 2-3 people, it takes around 30-45 minutes to get it all broken down and put away. Please consider helping out if you can.

We need barn homes or other suitable outdoor homes

Barn homes with caring, responsible owners are ideal for many cats with temperament and behavioral traits that cannot adjust to life inside a human home. In return for a comfortable environment and good nutrition, these cats make great mousers and all-around wonderful companions. If you know of a good barn home or other outdoor home, please call CARE at 288-9797.



Former CARE cat Joseph, a happy barn cat now living in Montpelier, Va.

Donation Jars

Please consider putting a CARE donation jar at your office or business. Every little bit helps. Also, one of our volunteers collects cat and dog foods at her place of business and we take it by the carload to the food bank for the underprivileged people's pets. You can bring the food any Saturday to Short Pump PetSmart from 11 am to 3 pm and we will deliver it to the food bank.

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If you like what you see, please ["like"](#) us on Facebook.

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Important Update from Alley Cat Allies: Virginia Police Officer Charged with Animal Cruelty in Cat Beating Death

Your call for justice was heard. Last month, we asked you to urge officials in Harrisonburg, Virginia to investigate a case of disturbing, violent animal cruelty by a city police officer.

In November, an officer responded to a call from a citizen who had rescued an injured cat from the side of the road. Instead of seeking help for the cat or trying to find the cat's owner, the officer viciously beat the cat to death with his police baton on the citizen's front porch.

Today, we're pleased to report that following an investigation by the Virginia State Police, the Commonwealth's Attorney has filed animal cruelty charges against this officer. We are thankful that this vicious act of cruelty will be prosecuted and we applaud the Commonwealth's Attorney for upholding Virginia's anti-cruelty laws.

The letters you sent helped to instigate the investigation; thank you for taking action to protect Virginia's cats. As we continue to follow the case, Alley Cat Allies renews our call for this officer, who is currently on administrative leave, to be immediately dismissed from the force.

Sincerely,
Alley Cat Allies

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If you have adopted a CARE cat and have a Happy Tale or any other contribution for this newsletter, please forward it to info@care-cats.org.



ANYTIME IS A GOOD TIME TO [DONATE TO CARE!](http://care-cats.org/donate) JUST GO TO <http://care-cats.org/donate>

CARE - Cat Adoption & Rescue Efforts www.care-cats.org 804-288-9797

CARE is a 501(c)(3) organization. A copy of CARE's most recent financial statement is on file with the Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs. All monetary donations are tax-deductible. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will go directly to spay/neuter operations, medical treatments, and daily care & feeding costs for the cats (and occasional dog, bunny, etc. that makes it into our rescue). Please mail your donation to the address below or go to our website: www.care-cats.org. Every penny makes a difference in the life of a CARE animal.



CARE PO Box 2934 Richmond VA 23228 info@care-cats.org 804-288-9797

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