



Fall/Winter 2017

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F.A.T. KATZ is a registered

501(c)(3) non-profit.

Your donations are tax-deductible  
to the fullest extent of the law.

TIN - 45-5467139

# The Scratching Post



## A Holiday Rescue: Phineas and the Colony

### How It Started

This is the behind the scenes una-bridged story of Phineas and the colony he came from. Phineas' in-his-own-words story is on our Facebook page.

FAT Katz gets many calls asking for help rescuing cats and kittens in out of control colonies. In November 2016 one of these calls came in. A gentleman had started with two unsterilized, indoor/outdoor cats that now numbered in the 20s, he thought. In fact, there were 35. He was worried he would be evicted from his home if all the cats remained so he reached out to us to surrender some of his cats.

Originally, another rescue said they would step in and take some of the kitties. Time went on into December and nothing had happened. Then they said they couldn't help after all. The gentleman was frantic and giving up hope. So FAT Katz stepped in.

We made our first visit on Christmas Eve 2016, bringing back 6 fairly tame kitties. On another trip after Christmas we came back with 3 more.

Our volunteer was on the phone with the gentleman shortly thereafter. He said he had a kitten with a large lump on his neck. She begged him to get this kitten to a vet as quickly as possible. She told him she would pay for the vet visit and that FAT Katz would take him in.

-Cont. on page 3



## Looking For Somewhere Local To Make Your End Of Year Donation?

Look No Further.....

F.A.T. Katz has been in operation for five and a half years and has rescued over 875 cats and kittens in our short time.

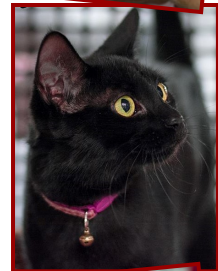
With basic vetting, which includes testing for Feline Leukemia & Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, sterilization, vaccinations and microchipping, the costs are just under \$100.00 per cat. This doesn't include any extra expenses such as upper respiratory, eye infections, dentals and much, much more.

As a registered 501(c)(3), we are able to provide you with a donation receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

To make your end of the year donation, please use the enclosed envelope and mail in or see the other options on the membership/donation form on the last page of the newsletter.

Time has gotten away from us yet again and the holidays are upon us. Since we need to conserve our funding for our outstanding medical bills we are not listing everyone who donated separately and in which category they fall into.

Please know that we GREATLY APPRECIATE everything you have all done to donate, volunteer, foster and support the kitties of F.A.T. Katz and we look forward to many more years of continuing success with your help.





## Volunteer Spotlight

This edition is focused on Sarah Rutherford. When asked why she volunteers, she told us this:

This year I made FAT Katz the focus of my Silver Award for Girl Scouts. I volunteer with Jen and her team of wonderful helpers. I volunteer because I feel I make a difference in the world and because I feel like I can help animals because they don't have a voice for themselves.

By helping FAT Katz, we are able to find great homes for the kitties. I also volunteer with many other places but out of all of them, FAT Katz is my favorite.

When I volunteer, I feel it makes me a greater person inside and out. I feel like little things matter in the world whether or not it is one cat or hundreds it doesn't matter, I'm doing something.

Being there for the kitties and FAT Katz, I'm making the world a better place.

~Sarah Rutherford

What is the Silver Award? It is the highest award a Cadet in Girl Scouts can earn. It requires 50 hours of volunteer service, a plan, and the implementation of that plan to a worthy cause to

better the community. Sarah fulfilled these requirements and earned her Silver Award.

The amazing thing is, this was not a job, this was not work. This was joy!

What does Sarah earning her Silver Award mean to us as parents?

It means having an incredible sense of pride in our 14 year old daughter. She is an overachiever and doesn't quit.

This feeling of pride is not just relegated to her Silver Award and Girl Scouts. It is applicable in all areas of her life. Her drive, her determination, her very big heart, her love of all animals, (Kitties the most!!) is a sight to behold and makes our hearts swell with her desire to help and do whatever she can for whomever she can.

She volunteers with numerous organizations, but her favorite is FAT Katz and the work they do to save all the kitties they can. Sarah saw an opportunity to help not only kitties, but people also, when she chose to do her project for FAT Katz.

Her reward for the volunteering and her project is the kitty time she gets. We call it kitty therapy!

The love, the pride, and the feeling of knowing this amazing young girl is going to continue her work of helping others in need for the rest of her life is a feeling that really can't be put into words.

We are very proud of our daughter.  
~Jayne and Dan Rutherford



## Homes Needed!

The Scratching Post

Knox

Nymeria

Bonny

Stanzi

Amadeus

Deja Vu

Bairn Ian

Circe

Brogue

Sade

Lorcan

Circe

Brogue

Lorcan

These are the remaining adoptable cats from Phineas' colony. See his story on Page 1.

If interested in more information, please call 505-293-2830 or email [FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com).



# Fundraisers/Events

**The Scratching Post**

## **Festivus! (For The Rest Of Us)**

It's Flower McFlower's Annual party for the people! Take a break from holiday madness and enjoy a light buffet dinner & nibbles with us at **Boofy's Best For Pets, 8201 Golf Course Rd. NW, Dec. 23, 9am-8pm**. We'll provide food and beverages; you bring good company, holiday cheer, grievances to air, perform feats of strength and a donation to help the kitties of F.A.T. Katz! Vegan/vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free noms will be available for those with special dietary needs.



## **Hearts Desire Valentine Photos & Adoption**

**Sat. Feb. 3, 11am-4pm**, come out to **Boofy's Best For Pets, 8201 Golf Course Rd. NW**, and bring your furry Valentine for photos! If you don't have one, we'll be holding cat adoptions that day too so maybe find a fluffy Valentine! \$10 suggested donation per family and all proceeds go directly to the cats and kittens in our care.



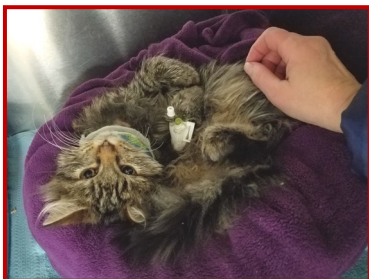
## **Fundraising always welcome!**

Want to raise funds with a lemonade stand, yard sale or car wash? Just collecting spare change? Maybe with your girl scout troop, church, friends, neighbors, etc.? If you are interested in doing an independent fundraiser, please contact us at 505-293-2830 or [FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com) and we can provide you with all the info you need!

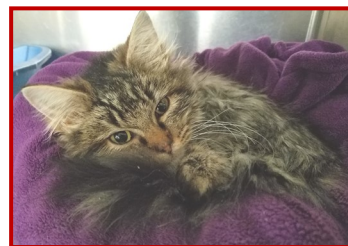
## **Phineas' Rescue—cont. from pg. 1**

The next day the gentleman brought Phineas to a local vet. Phinny was given an antibiotic injection, neutered, and had his neck shaved that showed horrible puncture wounds from a death bite. We picked him up the next afternoon and brought and into our foster program.

Phinny purred even though he hurt. Upon inspection of his neck that same day, however, it was clear that a simple antibiotic injection wasn't going to help him. The wounds were deep and oozed puss. When our director, Jen, saw Phinny's neck pictures, we knew he needed further care. The next morning Phinny's foster brought him to Dr. Spohn at PAWZ to Care in Bernalillo. Dr. Spohn took one look at Phinny's bloodwork and it was frightening. He was very close to having his organs shut down. He would die if he didn't have immediate emergency care. The call was made to VCA Montgomery and he was on his way.



Phineas underwent surgery to remove the infected/necrotic tissue from his puncture wounds. He had to be anesthetized every time his bandages were changed. He was so brave. Everyone at VCA loved Phinny. The doctors at VCA would put him in their coat pockets to give him comfort as he got better. (Dr. Russman was, and to this day, remains a Phineas Fan.) When Jen visited him at VCA a couple days after his surgery, Phinny purred for her, probably to say thank you. He rolled over on his back to show his belly. She was reduced to tears.



\$5,000 and 5 days later Phineas could go home! And who wanted to foster him but Dr. Spohn from PAWS to Care! She absolutely adored him, and her son, Dez, played with Phineas when he got better.

Phineas just got sweeter and sweeter. He got all his tests and vaccines and was ready for adoption! It didn't take long at all. Phineas was rescued by a family that fell in love with him right away. And he hit the jackpot! Phineas was so social he got all he ever wanted - loving family, kids, dogs and cats to play with!



## **The Rest of the Story**

Our same volunteer worked with Street Cat Hub in Albuquerque to trap-neuter-release (TNR) the remaining cats in the colony, and determine which additional cats FAT Katz could rescue. We trapped 20+ kittens in late January 2017. We rescued 8 of the sickest - kittens and cats - who were so ill they wouldn't have made it otherwise. One (Brogue) had to have his right eye removed. All had raging URIs and crusty eyes.

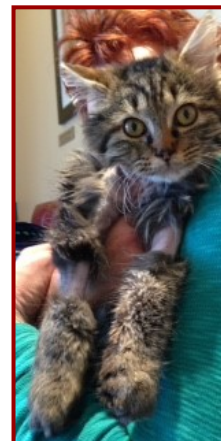


When our volunteer picked up the cats to be returned - at least 16 - one sweet girl was so tame (Amaya) that we had to rescue her too. We learned a short time later that two who were released (Nymeria and Knox) had previously spent time indoors and were frightened. We made another trip to rescue them a short time later.

FAT Katz rescued a total of 23 cats and kittens from this huge colony. Some have taken a little longer than others to trust. Eleven have been adopted. The others are ready to have their safe, loving forever homes. (See page 2 for the other adoptable kitties from Phineas' colony.)

As an endnote, this was the first time our FAT Katz volunteer partnered with Street Cat Hub. She and another volunteer now do TNR for this great sister organization in rural areas around Albuquerque.

A rescuer at heart, this volunteer, who shall remain nameless, rescues many of the cats and kittens. Thanks to FAT Katz, she can.



## Furry, four-Legged Gifts



Animals make cute presents, but there are a few things to keep in mind before giving them away for the holidays.

Holiday pets don't always get a happy ending. In fact, some shelters, see an increase in owners surrendering their pets after the holidays. While it is the goal of pet stores, shelters and breeders to place pets in a loving home, pets can't make a choice of where they go. So if you are intent on giving a pet as a gift, it's really incumbent upon the rescue or shelter to make sure that the gift giver is making a good choice and they're making a good placement.

But how does a gift-giver ensure that they are setting the pet up for success? While we aren't completely against giving pets as gifts, we would advise that the pet not be present during the holiday. It's not the norm of how your house is. There's a lot of activity going in and out. With a holiday comes wrapping paper and ribbon. Add in toys with small parts, poinsettias, house guests and a full table, and you have a stressful and chaotic environment for a new pet. We suggest that gift givers go through every step of the adoption except picking up the pet up. In-

stead, wrap a box containing a photograph of the pet and give that instead of the actual pet. Once the holidays have slowed down and the house has been restored to normality, that is the best time to pick up a pet.

We also believe that the recipient will enjoy the pet more if he or she has met it first. Also, if the recipient makes it clear that they are not ready or do not want a pet, do not override their decision or encourage them to own a pet if they are clearly not prepared to do so. The best pet gift is giving someone a pet they have already met, bonded with and are exuberant about sharing their life with that pet. We find the adoption process to be more rewarding when everyone involved is included in the entire process. That's something you can't do if you're giving a pet as a surprise. It's such a big commitment and with a gift, you have no chance to really commit to that. Eliminating surprises also avoids the risk of the recipient of the pet being unhappy or unprepared for the gift.

If pet owners are planning to travel to the homes of friends or relatives for the holiday, waiting to get the pet also avoids the risk of leaving a new pet home in an unfamiliar house or even traveling with the pet. It's possible the rescue can make arrangements to hold the pet if the adopters plan to travel for the holidays. It can be very stressful, going from one environment to the next with different noises and people and all that chaos.

While rescues, shelters and breeders all have different philosophies on gifting pets, we all agree that they should be treated with more care and preparation than the common holiday present. A pet is a new member of your family and that is not something that should be entered into lightly or on a whim or an impulse.

Giving a pet as a gift is not as easy as just sticking a bow on the pet. Here are some of the "dos" and "don't" of pet gift giving:

### Do:

- Pick up the pet after the holidays have ended. This avoids confusion for the pet and keeps them away from hazards.
- Clean up all of the Christmas ribbon before releasing the pet into the household because it can cause bowel obstructions.
- Make sure the recipient is ready for the pet.
- Give the pet a timeout if the environment it is in gets chaotic during the holidays.
- If getting kittens, make sure to get a pair so they keep each other busy while you're away.

### Don't:

- Keep plants such as poinsettias and lilies near cats or dogs because they are poisonous. If your animal has been poisoned, call the Animal Poison Control Center at 855-764-7661.
- Travel right after you bring a new pet home. It can be frightening and overwhelming to the pet to be alone in an unfamiliar house.
- Assume that the pet recipient wants a pet. Talk with them first and involve them with the process.
- Ignore whoever sold you the pet. They know the pet's quirks best, so believe them whenever they give you any warnings about them.



***All of our cats are spayed/neutered, current on vaccines and are tested negative for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) prior to adoption!***

***Visit our adoptable kitties at our adoption center at Petco, 6300 San Mateo NE, weekly, Saturdays, 11:30am-5pm & Sundays 12-4pm.***

***Ask us about our adoption fee specials!***



Merry  
Christmas



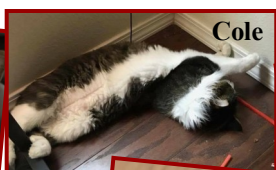




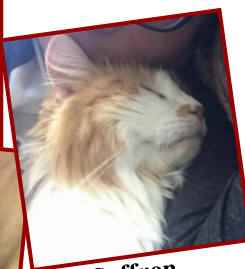
Kassidy



Misty



Cole



Saffron



Happy Tails



Max



Bruno

## Send Us Your Pictures!

We continue our "Happy Tails" section in our newsletter. Remember, we can't do it without your updated pics! We invite those of you who have adopted a cat from us to submit a photo labeled with the pet's name and date adopted to our e-mail address:

[FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com)



## Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

There are two reasons to spay or neuter your pet. First, there are significant health benefits. Spaying females prior to their first heat cycle nearly eliminates the risk of breast cancer and helps prevent uterine infections and uterine cancer. It also eliminates the constant crying and nervous pacing of a female cat in heat.

Neutering males prevents testicular cancer and enlargement of the prostate gland and greatly reduces their risk for perianal tumors. Neutering of male cats (and dogs) can prevent certain undesirable sexual behaviors, such as urine marking, humping, male aggression and the urge to roam. If you have more than one pet in your household, all the pets will generally get along better if they are neutered.

Second, there are so many cats (and dogs) that shelters and private rescues are desperately searching for homes for. Having your pet spayed or neutered ensures that you will not be adding to this tremendous burden.

Through our low-cost spay/neuter program, we will help you obtain the surgery at a fraction of the regular cost. We have no income requirements, so this program is available to everyone and their cats!

Please call 505-293-2830 or email [FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com) if interested.



### Chewy Cat Treats

- 1 large egg
  - 1 4-oz jar chicken and brown rice baby food (or something meaty which may include canned wet cat food)
  - 1/4 cup parsley, coarsely chopped
  - 2 teaspoons olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons water
  - 1 cup brown rice flour
  - 1/2 cup cooked white (or brown) rice
- Other things you might add for different treats: 1 tbsp. catnip or a hearty tbsp. of extra wet cat food.

Place a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together egg, baby food (or wet cat food), parsley, olive oil, and water. Add brown rice flour and cooked rice. Stir to incorporate. The mixture will be thick but spreadable.

Spread mixture onto prepared baking sheet creating a rectangle that is about 1/3 of an inch thick. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.

Remove from the oven. Let rest until cool enough to handle, then slice soft dough into bite-sized pieces.

Return pieces to the oven to bake for another 8 minutes. Remove from the oven. Allow to cool completely. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.



**Adoption events are held  
every weekend at Petco  
6300 San Mateo NE  
Saturdays 11:30am-5pm  
& Sundays 12-4pm**



Max.....  
Cats and trees.....  
Naughty boy!!

## **What your donations do.....**

We are so happy that you are interested in donating to F.A.T. Katz! Most people wonder where their money goes when they donate. We have decided to give you some ideas of what your money does.

\$10 covers one rabies vaccination

\$25 covers all shots for one cat

\$100 covers complete vetting for one cat

\$150 feeds four cats on special diets for two months

\$300 covers one dental cleaning with some extractions

\$1,000 covers tests and one night hospitalization for an acute, life-threatening condition

\$15 covers one FeLV/FIV test

\$60 covers one spay or neuter

\$130 covers one complete blood panel

\$400 covers one minor eye surgery

We sincerely thank you for all of your donations and support—big or small—and hope you will continue supporting our F.A.T. Katz kitties!

We are an all volunteer organization so your donations go directly to the cats in our care!

Please consider becoming a member or a sponsor today!

See the membership form below!

**A huge thanks to all of our volunteers,  
fosters, donors, members and sponsors! If you  
are interested in donating, volunteering or  
becoming a member, please complete the  
form below, call 505-293-2830 or email**

**FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com**

**If you are interested in an email version of the newsletter,  
please email us at FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com**

**F.A.T. KATZ – P.O. Box 90394 – Albuquerque, NM 87199-0394  
505-293-2830 or FatKatzAbq@gmail.com www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq www.FatKatzAbq.org**

Yes, I would like to become a member of F.A.T. KATZ in the following category (checks or money orders made payable to FAT KATZ):

\_\_\_\_ Guardian Angel (\$1000 or more)

\_\_\_\_ Friend (\$100)

\_\_\_\_ Active Volunteers (\$10)

\_\_\_\_ Star (\$500)

\_\_\_\_ Sponsor or Family (\$50)

\_\_\_\_ Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10)

\_\_\_\_ Hero (\$250)

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$30)

\_\_\_\_ Sponsor-A-Cat, Name of cat and amount \_\_\_\_\_

See Facebook or web page for pictures and the list of adoptable cats

\_\_\_\_ Microchip program sponsor amount \_\_\_\_\_

F.A.T. KATZ also has a PayPal account! You can donate through PayPal with your credit card using our email address listed above!

You can also donate straight from your paycheck using United Way. Please visit their website <http://www.uwcnm.org/> to find out how!

\_\_\_\_ Please check here for information on volunteering or fostering - you must provide email address or phone # for this!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

F.A.T. KATZ is a  
registered  
501(c)(3) non-profit.  
Your donations are  
tax-deductible  
to the fullest extent  
of the law.