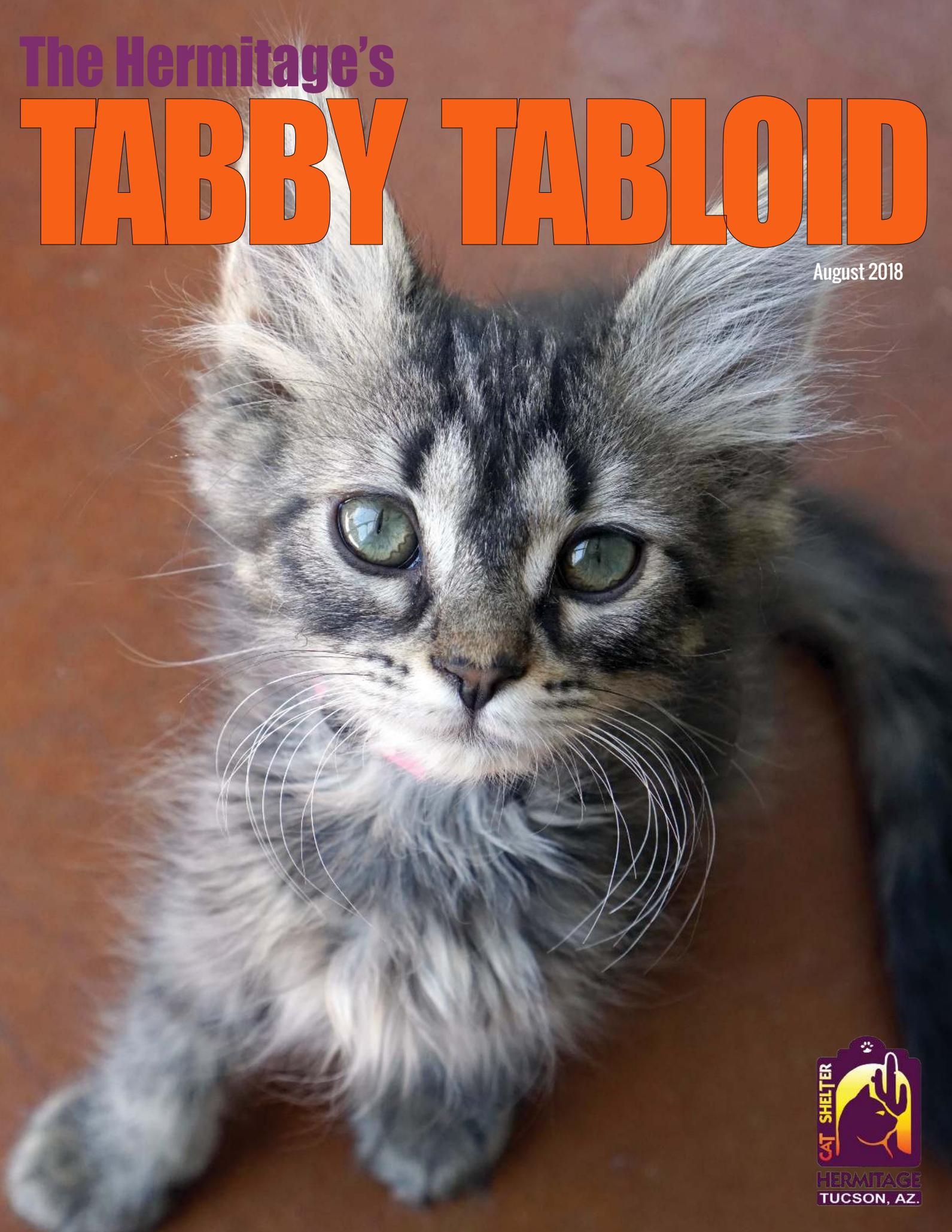


The Hermitage's

TABBY TABLOID

August 2018



● a message from our **executive director**

Life In Our “New” Old Home

Can you believe we're counting down the days until our one year anniversary in our gorgeously renovated shelter?! Every day that I come in to work in our beautiful facility, seeing the kitties as I walk through the different wards and greeting my staff, I am reminded of the many people who have helped us at The Hermitage to get here and of the dedication of the staff, volunteers, and supporters as we keep moving forward.

If you haven't been to the shelter in a while, you might be surprised by the new faces among our staff. We have welcomed new veterinary assistants and a shelter veterinarian, Dr. Beth Neuman, who owns Twin Peaks Veterinary Center and Dove Mountain Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Neuman has been a fantastic addition to our Hermitage family, and she's just as dedicated to the kitties of The Hermitage as we all are.

With the addition of Dr. Neuman, and the completion of our medical suite, we are now able to perform surgeries in-house! This has been an exciting change for us, especially as Kitten Season brought us an abundance of new babies. Since our first surgery on May 2, 2018, we've spayed/neutered 186 cats and kittens and counting! We are scheduled to begin dental surgeries at the end of August, and expect our kitties to have “Million Dollar Smiles” all around the shelter.

The staff and I have worked hard to cement ties of friendship and collaboration with the other rescues and shelters in our community. We know that our mission is so huge and so involved that we could not possibly succeed on our own. We count the Humane Society of Southern Arizona and Pima Animal Care Center as two of our closest friends and collaborators in the animal welfare community.

The Hermitage also created a special partnership with VCA Valley Animal Hospital and Emergency Center that will bring newly licensed veterinarians into our shelter, under the supervision of Dr. Neuman, to hone surgical skills and provide medical care. These new vets will gain valuable experience with the cats, learning how to read their body language, perform surgeries, give vaccinations, and treat them, all while donating their time and skills to The Hermitage. We've worked so hard to protect the health of our kitties, and these fantastic changes in our medical department will go a long way to keeping everyone happy and healthy.

Our staff has weathered many storms of change over the years, and this year is no different. Sometimes, the changes that blow in are wonderful and challenging and bring us great joy. Through all of our changes, though, the core dedication of love, protection, and care has remained and will continue to do so. We are here for the long haul, working hard every day to find homes for the homeless, bring love to the unloved, and protect the vulnerable. This is our promise to you, and to the cats of The Hermitage, and for this reason I want to thank you for your support and dedication along this amazing journey.

There are thousands of cats and kittens who have passed through our doors and into loving, adoptive homes because of you and your life-saving efforts and generosity. I will never be able to thank you enough, both for your past support and your continued support in the future. We, together, will be able to rescue and save thousands more cats and kittens in the future!

Sincerely,



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Shelter Wish List

Funds for a Microwave, Scissors, Staple Removers,
Event Canopies, Digital Kitchen Scales, Large Laundry Bags,
Paper Food Trays, Friskies Wet Food (Gravy), Push Broom,
Swiffer Sweeper and Refills, Folder Bands, Computer for Medical Dept.,
E-Collars, Kitty Kollars,
Gift Cards to: *Amazon, Costco, Petco, PetSmart*

Hermitage Cat Shelter Staff

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Executive Director

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Shelter Veterinarian

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**The Hermitage No-Kill Cat
Shelter & Sanctuary**
TAX ID #86-0213263

From Puerto Rico, With Love...

In 2016 a little street kitten was in a car accident that left him with horrific injuries to his face, including his jaw, and upper body. In any shelter, this kitten would have been given a grave prognosis, and Save-A-Gato, in Puerto Rico, was no exception. However, they endeavored to do their best to heal his injuries, and to save his life.

Against all odds, this kitty survived, due to the dedication of his caregivers and a little bit of veterinary magic! His jaw healed a little crooked and he had a few other small issues, but overall he was going to be okay!

Aquarius was content to be snuggled and loved, just wanting to snooze in the warm, cozy lap of a human who loved him. When The Hermitage got the call from our sister rescue about Aquarius and several other kitties in need, we welcomed them all with open arms!

Aquarius, along with his friends, came to us in April 2018, and within moments The Hermitage staff and volunteers were head over heels in love with him. We gave him a home in our front lobby so he could be under closer watch and let him settle in.

It didn't take long for this gregarious kitty to win the hearts of our visitors, and by the end of April, Aquarius had a new family of his own—and a new name: Abie!

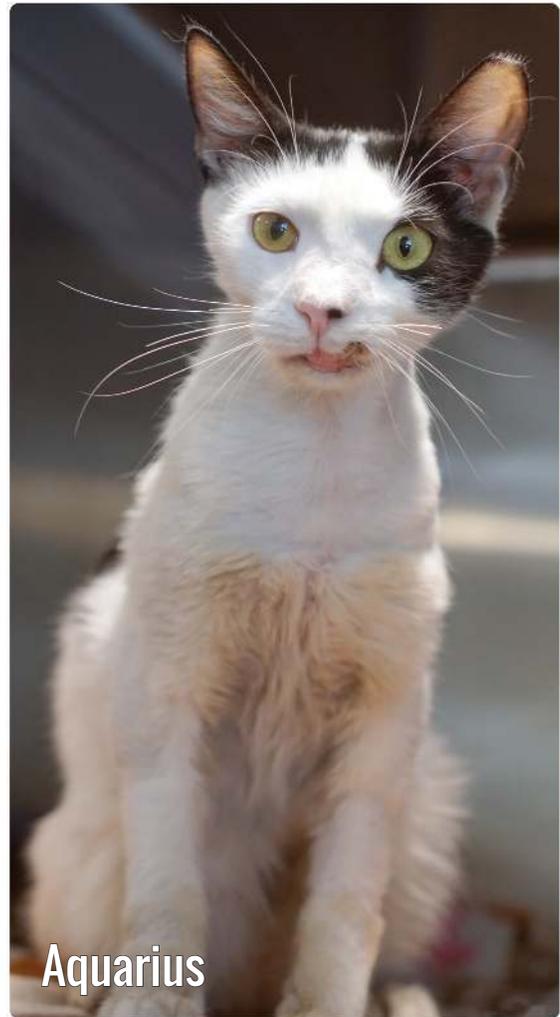
This wasn't the end of his tale, however, as we soon learned that poor Abie's jaw and palate were in bad shape—much worse than we originally thought. His parents were worried and so were we. The first surgery was unsuccessful, but the second went like a dream! His vet had to shift his soft and hard palates, suturing them in place. She also put in a feeding tube to protect his sutures while he healed.

A little more of that veterinary magic, liberally sprinkled with love and care, and after two weeks Abie was healed and eating food on his own. His new parents were thrilled and so were we!

Poor Abie had a long road to recovery that began that dark day in 2016, when he was a very small kitten. He has had many human friends to help him along the way, giving him love and support until he found his forever family. We were honored to meet him and couldn't have been happier when Abie found his family.

Abie's parents sent us this update. “[Abie] has been wonderful to have in our home. Now that he is well (even with the feeding tube), his real personality has begun to emerge. I am not sure how long he was, in some ways, unwell, but he is good and healthy and we would not change for anything. I am writing to say that we are honored to have this young cat living [with us]. We feel blessed to have him as part of our family...AND we will love him, as we should, “as long as we both shall live...”

There are many kitties like Abie/Aquarius who have called The Hermitage their home. Some are with us for the long-term and others for only a few days. Your donations and support help us give them the best care we can, while we seek their forever families.



Straight from the Cat's Mouth

I asked Mr. Orange, resident Hermitage cat, if he had time to answer a few questions about his thoughts on the Hermitage. In between eating, sleeping, and stalking pigeons, he visited with me.

Kristen: What are your favorite things at the Hermitage?

Mr. Orange: (He flicks his tail, whiskers wavering, and takes a moment to ponder.) *The staff here is wonderful, and they work extremely hard to take care of us. I especially love watching the Medical staff chase cats around to give them their needed medications. Very entertaining. I am not sure who the chef is, but the wet food here is phenomenal. The volunteers are a huge help with their brushing, petting, and assisting with clean-up after we have one of our midnight cat parties. The water is also good. Mark does something every week with the fountains that makes the water taste better. Lucky for him, I plan to help him on weekends.*

Kristen: Is there anything you feel that visitors should know?

Mr. Orange: *Yep. Be aware of purple and red collars. Purple and red mean that we are especially prone to bite and scratch. Don't take it personally. For all the cat residents, it's a good idea not to immediately reach out and pet us. Instead, watch for warning signs since some of us might be scared or upset.*

Kristen: Excellent point. This includes flattening ears, flipping tails, or dilating pupils.

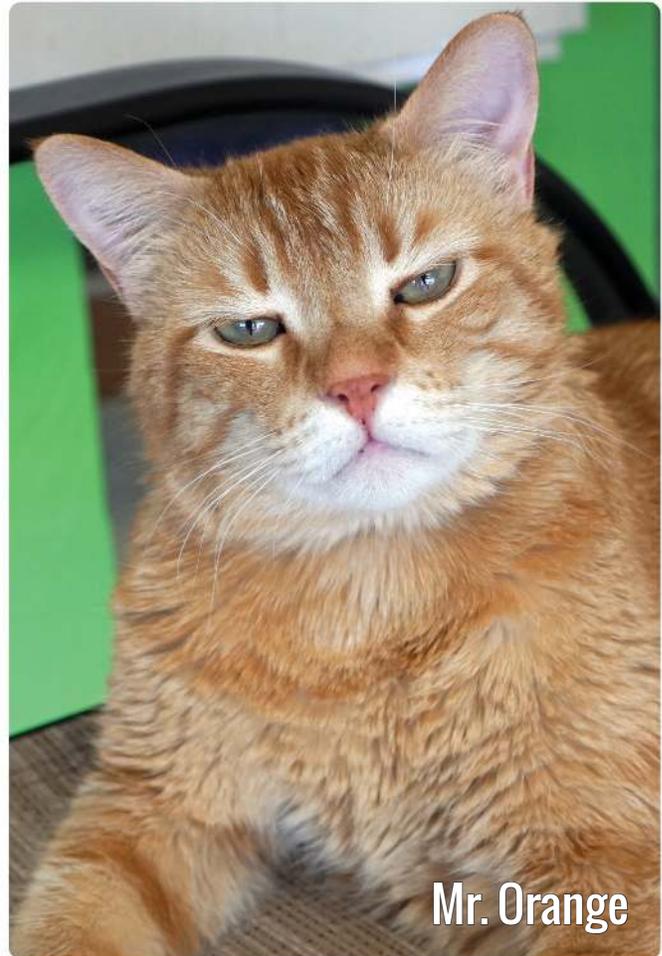
Mr. Orange: *Back off when we growl, spit, scratch, or seem to get agitated. If we bite, we get a long, long, long, long time out. No fun.*

Kristen: Valuable advice. Do you have any future goals?

Mr. Orange: *I would love a forever home with someone nice who will give me lots of love and attention—but on my own terms, plenty of food, and maybe some catnip. My other goal is for me and the boys—Vander, Nacho, and Walter—to be invited to the monthly yoga classes (1st & 3rd Sunday of each month). The yoga classes are a great fundraiser. Chessie gets to go, and we would like a turn, too. So what if we bite, scratch, and nip a little. I promise that we will provide an even more unique experience for the yoga participants.*

Kristen: Any final remarks?

Mr. Orange: *Please visit all the kitties in each of the rooms. Just don't forget to sanitize your hands in between rooms. And be careful of Vander. He loves darting into the rooms to gossip.*



● a message from our **veterinarian**

Consider A Special-Needs Cat

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a cat-only virus that affects a small percentage of our wonderful felines here at The Hermitage. Similar to a person with HIV, a cat infected with FIV is more vulnerable to certain infections and diseases due to a weakened or suppressed immune system. There is currently no cure for FIV; however, these cats can enjoy a good quality of life for quite some time, and they may never develop full-blown disease. Many cats infected with FIV die of geriatric diseases, such as chronic kidney dysfunction, rather than FIV itself. So just because a cat is carrying this virus does not mean it is unadoptable!

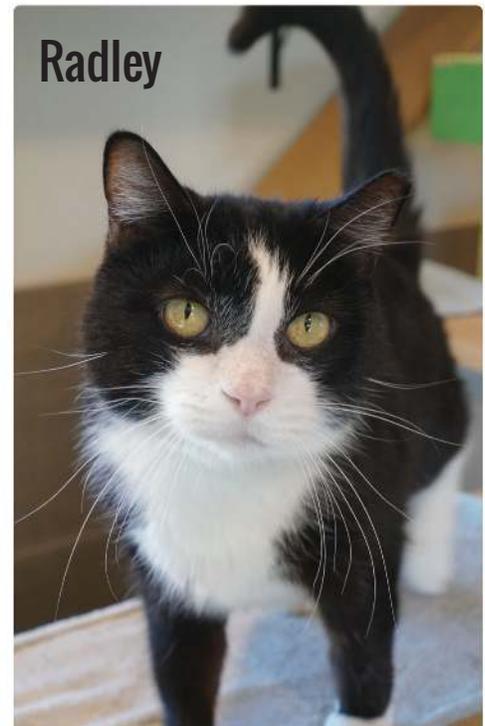
Every cat at The Hermitage is tested for FIV and FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus). When we test cats for FIV, we are testing for the presence of antibodies, not the virus itself. A confirmatory (and more expensive) Western Blot test is used to confirm true infection. Kittens can inherit maternal antibodies from their mother, so some kittens who initially test positive are not actually infected and will later test negative.

The virus is fragile and difficult to transmit in any way other than deep bite wounds, meaning FIV-positive cats and FIV-negative cats can live together with an extremely low risk of disease transmission. Normal social interactions such as grooming, sharing food and water bowls, and even community litter boxes have no known risk of transmission.

Many people ask us how to keep their cats healthy. Keeping your cat indoors is one crucial step in preventing disease, including FIV. Using appropriate parasite control, feeding a nutritionally balanced diet, and avoiding raw foods will minimize food-borne parasites and disease. In addition, The Hermitage recommends that all cats have an annual examination with their veterinarian.

Owners of FIV-positive cats should plan on twice yearly examinations and having their cat's weight monitored closely, as weight loss can be the first subtle sign of disease in a cat. Stomatitis, a common condition causing inflammation of the gum tissue, is more common in the FIV-positive cat and responds best to early intervention. We also recommend working closely with your veterinarian to develop an appropriate vaccination schedule for your FIV-positive cat.

Please speak with a staff member at The Hermitage if you have questions or are interested in adopting one of our terrific felines living in the FIV room!



Thank You!

Because of supporters like you, these cats, and many more, found their forever homes in the first half of 2018. Cats like long-time resident Iago, who had been a fixture at The Hermitage for over three years. He found a happy home with a couple of feline roommates who have welcomed him into the fold. Cats like Gert, a survivor of a Hurricane Harvey in Houston. She is now enjoying life in the drier climate of Tucson, Arizona. And cats like Moana, an FeLV+ kitty who found sanctuary with us until her forever family took her home. We rely on our community to help us fulfill our mission of advocating for animal rights and ending needless euthanasia of at-risk felines through protection, adoption, and sanctuary.



top row (left to right): Bogie, Bella, Lizzy Tish, Arissa; middle row (left to right): Tenzin, Gert, Pilo, Peppermint; bottom row (left to right): Konabi, Iago, Moana, Bertha

Statistics for January 2018 - June 2018

405 Intakes

360 Adoptions

186 In-House Spay and Neuter Surgeries - (since May 2, 2018)

231 Total Spay and Neuter Surgeries

More Than 100 Cats & Kittens In Foster Care

Silent Auction Preview

This year, we're doing things a little differently. Instead of hosting a gala, we are having our first ever online silent auction. We don't want to give away all our surprises, but we wanted to let you peek behind our curtain and hopefully whet your appetite for the auction to be held September 24 through October 8, 2018. We will have an auction preview at the shelter on September 21st at which time you can purchase the items live!

Be sure to watch our Facebook page as we get closer to the date. We'll have information about the fun experiences we'll be auctioning, the items available, and much more!

A Surgery/Procedure Day at The Hermitage

Ever been curious about how surgeries work for kitties? Interested in veterinary medicine or know someone who is? This experience will give you a front row seat to one surgery day in our medical suite! You could see spays and neuters, dental surgeries, or other procedures, performed by our shelter veterinarian.

Paintings by Local Artists

Several paintings have been donated by local artists who call our gorgeous Tucson their home. Because of our extremely talented artisan community, we have several mediums to offer, and we're sure there's at least one in the style you've been looking for!

Memorabilia from Sister Seraphim

The Hermitage staff has carefully curated and chosen pieces of Sister's effects to offer for auction to our donors and friends. These pieces were chosen due to their beauty, interest, or historical significance to The Hermitage. From our original gate, to an icon that Sister kept with her personal items, to gorgeous, mounted photos of our feline residents from the late 70s, these pieces are guaranteed to be conversation starters and to add special grace to any home.



Saguaro and Cholla Skeleton (with driftwood) Cat Tree

This amazing kitty tree was hand-made by local artisan Judith Fishback. She made them for many years, and when she retired she donated the last one to us. It stands about 60" high and is about 48" at its widest point. Using saguaro ribs and cholla stems, she crafted an amazing, durable, and visually stunning kitty tree.

We have many more fun and unique items available, from jewelry to antiques, so be sure you keep an eye out for the opening of our auction! Thank you for all your support!



Cat Camp & Kids' Club

Each summer The Hermitage offers Cat Camp, a fun and educational summer camp for kids ages 6–12. During the week-long camp, participants meet new friends, create cat-themed crafts, and of course, cuddle lots of kitties! Each day the kids learn about a different aspect of the shelter. Topics include medical care, the value of spay and neuter, the TNR program (Trap, Neuter, Return), Food for People's Pets (pet food pantry), volunteering, fostering, adoptions, and pet therapy.

This summer we had 24 campers! In addition to raising over \$4,000 for the shelter, we were able to offer three scholarships to low-income families, thanks to generous sponsors. We are also very happy to report that five cats were adopted by campers and their families (Snowie, QT, Fritzzy, DJ Meow, and Nina Simone).



Several Cat Camp “regulars” come every year. Last summer, many of them lamented having to wait an entire year for more camp fun and asked if we could have a sort of “mini-camp” on the weekends. Thanks to their brilliant idea, The Hermitage now offers a Kids' Club on the first Saturday of each month! Kids' Club includes a cat-themed craft, an educational presentation, snack, and lots of kitty time! Parents are welcome to stay and participate or drop off their kids at the shelter. Kids' Club is held the first Saturday each month from 10AM to 12PM. The cost is \$20 (sibling discounts available) and parents must register in advance on our website under Events Registration.

Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who help make Cat Camp possible! Special thanks to Lauren Clough, our intern, and Clare Yarborough, who volunteered over 25 hours for each week of camp!

For more information about Cat Camp and Kids' Club, or to donate to our scholarship fund, please visit the Hermitage website or email Ashley at ashley@hermitagecatshelter.org.



Feasting For Felines

The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter & Sanctuary “Feasting for Felines” program is a partnership we developed with local restaurants in an effort to raise money for the cats in our care. In the past, we have partnered with Cold Stone Creamery, Chili's, Brushfire BBQ, and others who, on a designated day, donate up to 50% of their proceeds to The Hermitage. Each Feasting event raises the profile of The Hermitage, allowing us to reach restaurant customers who may not have previously known about the shelter. In addition, our supporters have a fun and flavorful way to continue to assist The Hermitage.

We have more Feasting events throughout the rest of the year, including Blue Willow, Guadalajara Grill, Illegal Pete's, and more! Check our website and social media pages for more information about upcoming Feasting for Feline events!

Are You Angel? Would You Like To Be?

Every year, the cats at The Hermitage benefit from donations from caring people who have passed on but who wanted to make one final gift to benefit the cats in our care. Some of these angels are long-time and well-known supporters of ours, and some are not known to us at all.

Planned gifts take many forms. The most common is a gift made in a person's will, called a bequest. This gift can consist of cash, appreciated stock, real estate, or other assets. These bequests can be listed as a specific dollar amount or as a percentage of the person's estate. People who have trusts may also be able to give to The Hermitage through those trusts.



Two other common ways to make a planned gift are to name The Hermitage as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

If you are interested in making a planned gift to benefit the cats of The Hermitage, please contact our Executive Director, Karen Baden, by email at karen@hermitagecatshelter.org or call 520.589.2733 for more information. She can provide you with sample language for bequests. Then consult with your attorney or financial advisor about the best way for you to make a planned gift to The Hermitage. Your legal or financial advisor can help you determine the type of gift that best suits your personal and financial circumstances. And please let us know if you do, or do not, want your planned gift acknowledged publicly, such as in the Tabby Tabloid.

This year, our Hermitage cats have already benefitted from planned gifts from two of our Hermitage angels. Would you like to be one of our angels in the future? We would be grateful for your support!

Top 10 Collection Box Locations

- #1 • Mesquite Valley Growers • 8005 E Speedway Blvd
- #2 • Ace Hardware (22nd St) • 6959 E 22nd St
- #3 • Skate Country • 7980 E 22nd St
- #4 • Ace Hardware (Pima) • 5424 E Pima St
- #5 • Green Things • 3235 E River Rd
- #6 • St Mary's Animal Clinic • 1010 W St Mary's Rd
- #7 • Desert Bloom Re-Leaf Center • 8060 E 22nd St
- #8 • OK Feed & Supply • 3701 E Fort Lowell Rd
- #9 • Ace Hardware (Golf Links) • 9581 E Golf Links Rd
- #10 • Tucson Mountain Motors • 3045 S Kinney Rd

If your business would like a collection box, contact Emma Crawford @ 520.571.7839

● tributes & donations

In Honor Of

Paula Fan's bday from Jocelyn and Richard Ellison
Janice Anifantakis

Keegan and Noel
Natalie Baker

Happy Birthday, Mary Norine
*Kathy Campbell
Bonnie Dombrowski
Sally Hendrix
Vivian Horner
Julie Horner-Wilson
Karina Levine
Ginger Linde
Edward Mullins
Rose Norine
Patricia A. O'Brien (From Deena, Travis
and Patti)
Sharon Ogle
Jeffrey Rens*

Julie Morgan
Sharon Carter

Rachael
Deborah Edwards

Beth Griffin
*Sari Gersten
Karina Levine
Edward Mullins
Mary Norine
Jeffrey Rens*

Thanks for Taking Pharraah from PACC
Carolyn & Robert Milkey

Happy Birthday!! Mary Ann
*Jeffrey Saunders
JJ and the kitties at The Hermitage*

My Daughter, Jennie Peters' Birthday
Beverly Schenck

Happy Birthday, Mom
David Schenck

Lori Huntzinger
Megan Smith, Canyon Ranch

Denise Birnbaum
Megan Smith, Canyon Ranch

In Memory Of

Socks Downer
Carolyn Andersen

Kren Topham
Peter Anderson

Booger
Raymond Baldwin

Gene Gandy
Delia Bethell

Marion Brady
Bonny Brady

Andy
Kathleen Bright

Corey Family
Marylou Burke

Vicki Small
Jeffrey Cleavland

Kayley
Donna Connolly

Daughter Courtney & Her Kitty, Jinxy
Peggy Crismore

Bernard Curtis
Troy Curtis

Jasper
Constance De Vere

Diva
Terence DeCarolis

Jasper
Terence DeCarolis

Topaz
Colleen DeFraitas

DB
Patricia Fischer

Sweetie Pie
Lesley Fitzpatrick

Cindy Puglisi
Jana Gerges

Belle Star
Jeffrey Glebocki

My "Sister," Eileen Ruzeck
Karen Hobbie

Hanny Parkhurst
Samantha Holdren

In Memory Of (con't)

Cupid
Corina Hollander

Joanne Mayo
Anna Howell

Cynthia B. Puglisi
Dennis Jeff

Becky Howard
J Jones

Margaux Kenny
Paul Kenney

Luise Cassidy
Marge Kesler

Jasper
Leslee Liska

Sweetie Pie
Joan McGee

Mary Knox
Jan Means

Ken Oase
David Oase

Allen Hellman
Leslee Perlstein

Jasper
Jennifer Shopland

Ken Boerner
Gail Speer

Nala
Carol Sue Spiller

Brenda Vold
Pat Vold

Mr. Fog
Arthur Voss

Vaghara
John Walker

Nacho
Teena Werley

Katheleen Jones
Edward Whitcher

Luke Zachau
Bill Zachau

*(tributes and gifts reflect donations received from
01/01/18 thru 07/31/18)*

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