

KATS' TALES

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SAYING GOODBYE by Helen Morrison, KAS President

Sometimes at the Shelter there are cats that are there for a while before they are adopted. Kingdom Animal Shelter is not the kind of shelter that has fast turnover. Cats do not come in and leave in rapid succession as they do in many shelters. We have the cats long enough to get to know them, to understand their personalities, their special needs, what kinds of homes would be the best fit for them. And we take time to check references on adoption applications, calling vet references and personal references, and making sure, if the adopters live in an apartment, that the landlords are okay with them having a cat. We make sure that the adopters are conscientious about wellness checks and that vaccines have been up to date with other pets they have had.

We have had two cats with us for a year and a half. Mandy and Miranda are sisters. They were very shy for quite a while, only recently coming out of their shells and reaching out to people for play and affection. In addition, Mandy had a condition called stomatitis where her immune system attacked the plaque on her teeth and caused incredibly painful inflammation of her gums to the point where her gums looked like she had a mouth full of strawberries. It would be impossible for her to eat, and she would ultimately die. So we had her teeth and the roots, every little fragment, removed by a dental surgeon. As a result, she is toothless and looks a bit like Mr. Magoo.

Helen came to us about 4 months ago. She is probably 5-6 years old. Helen is totally blind, and she has some gastro-intestinal issues that require a special prescription diet. We have to make sure that her litter box and food and water and bed never change place in her condo. But Helen is an awesome cat. She plays, and she needs to keep her litter box, her bed, her food, her water in exactly the same place in her condo all the time. And she will probably have some challenges with glaucoma in time. But Helen is playful and loves to explore around the Shelter. No one loves to cuddle and head butt and purr like Helen.

Helen and Mandy and Miranda are special needs cats. And as a result, they are not cats that folk are lining up to adopt.

Because Mandy, Miranda, and Helen have been at the Shelter for a while, all the volunteers have become incredibly fond of them. We want them to get good homes, of course. But it is also a bit hard to think of them leaving, to have to say goodbye. They have become a part of the Shelter family. However, we have to be diligent about finding them good homes. And we have, indeed, found them good homes.

Mandy and Miranda went home about a month ago to a wonderful young woman who understands their challenges, empathizes with their shyness, and is willing to give them all the patience in the world. Already, she has sent us videos of Mandy and Miranda playing with a laser light in their new, spacious home. And Helen went home two weeks ago, to a young couple who understands all her special needs and was totally willing to take her home, love her, and tend to those needs. Helen is a very lucky girl.

Whenever cats that have been with us for a while are adopted and are going home, we put out a message to all the volunteers to come and say goodbye...because that is what those volunteers want to do. They have become so attached that they need to give them a special and personal farewell. So even with the joy of these special cats finding excellent and loving homes, it's a little hard to say goodbye. We are very happy for them but are also just a bit sad to see them go. **UPDATE...**Helen is adjusting wonderfully to her forever home! She joins the nearly 20 successful cat adoptions we've had so far this year! Happy Tails!!



Meet our Tabby! He is initially shy, probably due to his past, but once you've gained his trust he loves to cuddle, nuzzle and roll over to have his belly scratched. He is very playful with toys and humans. He is currently in foster care so his playfulness isn't restricted, but he'd really love to find a forever home. Give KAS a call today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 3 Cinco de Meow
North Congo Church,
Main Street, St. Johnsbury 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
- June 13 Bark in the
Park after the Pet
Parade at 10:00 A.M., Main Street,
St. Johnsbury



10 END OF WINTER HAZARDS FOR YOUR PET (conclusion)

6. Overheating and Dry Indoor Air Just as it does with us, the heat in our homes dries out our pet's skin and nasal passages. A humidifier can help add moisture and alleviate sniffs and sneezes. 7. Heartworms Skipping doses of heartworm medication in winter months leaves a dangerous window of opportunity for heartworm carriers to infect your pets. Keeping your pet on a monthly year-round prevention is the best way to protect your pet from this preventable and potentially life-threatening disease. A helpful tip is to give heartworm treatment as part of your normal routine—like tying it to when you pay your monthly bills. After you give the medicine, make a check mark on your calendar so you don't forget you've given it. 8. Dangers Beneath the Snow The hidden dangers of ice, wood, branches, and trash lying beneath the winter's blanket can cause unforeseen lacerations and impaling injuries. After each jaunt outside with your pet, take a few moments to look for any wounds or injuries. Try a nose-to-tail hands-on rub-down. Your pet will think they are getting a reward massage, and you get peace of mind. 9. Skin Infections Fur-covered skin offers a safe haven for dirt, debris, moisture, and parasites. Without frequent washing or brushing, your pet's skin can become overwhelmed, inflamed, or even infected. Start your spring cleaning now with a day at the pet grooming spa. 10. Scabies These mites prefer to settle down in the fur of our pets, and they can swap hosts, potentially infecting you and your other pets as well. If your pet is itchy and suffering from hair loss, ask your vet how you can easily treat and protect against scabies.

By Krista Magnifico, DVM Source: www.everydayhealth.com/columns/everyday-pets retrieved 3/13/15

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Did you know....Abraham Lincoln was the first President to have a cat in the White House. His cat's name: Tabby.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT The purpose of the Kingdom Animal Shelter is to facilitate the placement of stray and unwanted animals and pets in desirable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter and associated procedures that promote health, care and handling; and to prevent overpopulation and the prevention of cruelty to animals. The animals in our care, our guests, are never euthanized merely because we lack space or because the animal's stay with us has exceeded a predefined amount of time.

Please forward this to your friends, family, co-workers, or anyone interested in supporting our shelter. If you no longer wish to receive emails from Kingdom Animal Shelter, please hit "Reply" and change the subject line to UNSUBSCRIBE. Kingdom Animal Shelter respects your privacy and will never share or sell your email address or other information.