



K
A
F **A** **T**
Feline Assistance Team
Z

Helping Felines
And Their Friends

Winter 2020



Aleister

505-293-2830

FatKatzAbq@gmail.com

www.FatKatzAbq.org

[www.facebook.com/
FatKatzAbq](https://www.facebook.com/FatKatzAbq)

P.O. Box 90394

ABQ, NM 87199-0394



If interested in adopting one of our adoptable cats on page 2, please email FatKatzAbq@gmail.com for an application today.



The Scratching Post

REFLECTIONS ON 2020

This year has been unlike any other in our lifetimes. Yet the urgent need to rescue cats, kittens, pregnant queens, injured cats and kittens, and those whose lives are on the line, whether from the streets or the shelters, did not change.

What IS different are the displaced cats and kittens whose families lost their jobs, homes, and/or loved ones who became sick or even died from COVID19. Some of our FAT Katz cats have had to come back to us because of these painful circumstances.

What IS different is that veterinary clinics were unable to perform routine surgeries for long periods of time. This meant no spays and neuters, resulting in more kittens being born.

What IS different is that in-person fundraising had to stop. We've missed seeing you at paint nights, Girls' Day Out, karaoke at Sidewinders, hanging out at Boofy's Best for Pets at many wonderful events, and our fun-filled volunteer pot luck get-togethers.

What IS different is that adoptions as we knew them had to cease because of the pandemic. We had to adapt, figuring out how to do small, socially distanced events to keep everyone safe. Boofy's Best for Pets has been a staunch partner through it all, allowing us to hold carefully planned adoptions in their store.

Here are the faces and amazing stories of some we took in this year:

Bordeaux: This beautiful boy came to us having been **injected** with methamphetamine. Brought to VCA Veterinary



Care by the persons responsible, Bordeaux was in deep distress. VCA called us and, when stabilized and no longer in danger, one of our wonderful foster families stepped in. Part of Bordeaux's recovery was getting lots of love and smooches. Gladly, our sweet boy found his forever family, safe from the sickening cruelty that almost took his life.



Aurora: It's just not right when a tiny kitten has a broken leg that can't be saved. Our lovely Aurora came to us from the shelter, going straight to VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital for assessment. Her leg had to be amputated right away. Undaunted and a little fighter, Aurora made it. She charmed her foster family. She then captured the hearts of her forever family who wouldn't leave the building without her, now she's sitting in laps during Zoom meetings!



Homes Needed!

The Scratching Post

Bonded Pairs or siblings who would love to be together - Two are better together!



Kyo
Althea



Mars
Mercury



Jupiter
Mercury



Chandler
Joey
Rachel



Opal
Pearl



Seamus
Stashu



Sydney
Smudge



Crowley
Castile



Faramir
Boromir



Morwen, Bilbo, Faramir, Boromir
Adamantia, Adonis
Merry, Peregrine



Sweet William
Sleuth

Sleuth
Sly



All cats are spayed/neutered, current on vaccines, tested negative for FeLV/FIV and microchipped prior to adoption!

Contact us via email or phone to ask about our adoption procedures. FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com or 505-293-2830

Ask us about our adoption fee specials!



Volunteer Spotlight

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

My father got me started in animal rescue when I was too young to remember, so I guess I've been doing this all my life. He had an unerring instinct for finding injured or lost animals, both wild and domesticated, and helping them back to health or to their homes. We always had animals in and out of the house no matter where we went -- and we went lots of places around the country.

While I was in college, I was so lonely for animals that I adopted a group of cats that lived behind the cafeteria. In retrospect, they were definitely a feral colony. Feral was not a term I was familiar with at the time, so I just assumed that they were leery of strangers and acted accordingly. And when I graduated, I convinced the dean of the newly-opened veterinary school on campus to have his students take over their care.

The first cats that were "mine, all mine" were found half-drowned on a golf course by my golfing brother-in-law. They are long gone, but they were the first of an unbroken stream of rescued cats who have enriched my life for decades.

Joan Q. Horowitz in Albuquerque, NM (USA)
still parenting 4 homeschooling graduates



REFLECTIONS ON 2020 – Cont. from page 1



Quina: Adopted from a shelter and returned within days, Quina gave birth to still-born kittens and was gravely ill. We rushed Quina to VCA Wyoming where it was touch and go. Our shy affectionate girl made it. Her real name is Esmoquina, which means ‘smoking jacket’ in Spanish. Take one look at her and you’ll know why. She is a stunning black tuxedo with Marlene Dietrich looks. Quina is available for adoption to a very lucky family.

Ahava: Ahava (‘beloved’ in Hebrew) endured what no cat ever should. Bitten numerous times by the family dog, she never received vet care and was full of scars. Her owner brought her to VCA Vet Care to be euthanized. VCA talked the owner into surrendering her and began lifesaving care. Her tail was so damaged it had to be amputated. Ahava’s personality never wavered. She is a fun, sassy girl who wants to be pampered by the perfect family. Just ask her – she’ll tell you!



Gawain: This amazing boy came to us with his right front leg broken in two places. Weighing barely two pounds, his amputation was rough. Yet Gawain purred every time his foster looked at him. Having a buddy healing at the same time was a big help. They became inseparable. Named for a knight of the Round Table, Sir Gawain’s strong name and his friend got him through (his foster helped a bit). Adopted together, the ‘brothers from different mothers’ are dearly loved.

Gryffin: Gryffin was screaming at the shelter. His paw was out, pleading for help. His lip was split, making some think he had a cleft palate. Actually, his upper left lip had been torn open. By what, we don’t know. We grabbed this distraught boy and VCA Wyoming’s Dr. Martin stitched his lip back together. Gryffin of Gryffindor became Gawain’s best pal. Talk about the wisdom of the Sorting Hat! Gryffin and Gawain are together forever with a family that absolutely adores them.



Gollum: Little Gollum came to us with a back leg that clearly was in trouble. Little did we know his tail was, too. He lost both. Shy as kitties go, Gollum is a magnet for kittens in need of a big bro to keep them warm and show them the ropes. While he is formally up for adoption, he may not make it out of his foster home. It takes a special boy to help new kittens feel

safe and secure. He may have just landed himself a permanent job!

Ingrid (Bergman): Ingrid is a COVID19 casualty in that she could not have her sterilization surgery because of the shut down’s. A teenaged mom-to-be on the streets, it soon became abundantly clear Ingrid was **very** pregnant. She gave birth just five days after we managed to lure her in. A gentle star in her own right, Ingrid bore beautiful starlets of the silver screen. Having successfully raised her talented kittens, Ingrid is looking forward to a safe, loving forever home. No more dangerous street life for our beautiful Ingrid.



Aleister: A senior gentleman’s chances in a high kill shelter aren’t good. Aleister was to be euthanized with two other kitties only for having an upper respiratory infection. Securing a trusted foster home, we saved him with only moments to spare. All this sweet boy ever wanted was a warm lap, cozy spot by the fireplace, and lots of love. Aleister is available for adoption to the lucky family who wants to dote on this loving orange tabby boy. PS. We saved the other two kitties, too.

We know everyone is struggling this year. And now, more than ever, we need your help to continue our life-saving work. Please continue the tradition of giving at this special time of year. No amount is too small. We love monthly donors! We are ever grateful to you, our volunteers and supporters. We can’t save kitties in need without you. We look forward to when we can all see each other again, enjoy food and hugs, laughter and stories. May your holidays be blessed and safe.

~Love from the FAT Katz Team

Cats' Behaviors Are Actually Messages To Their Humans

Dogs may be known as man's best friend, but they have competition. As anyone who owns one can tell you, a cat can be just as loyal and loving as any other animal, albeit in their own unique way. One thing that cats aren't, however, is easy to understand.

Anyone who has ever stared baffled at a blank-faced cat in wonder knows what we mean. They might not be outwardly expressive, but they're definitely trying to communicate with you. In fact, you'll want to be on the lookout for these specific ways that your cat tries to get your attention.



1. Cats can be pretty aloof, so there's nothing unusual about your pet lounging alone and surveying the entire room. But if your pal looks at you and starts slowly blinking, he's giving you an important message. Slow blinking is a sign of comfort and love. It's a signal that cats use to tell each other everything is OK, so, if you see it, your buddy is feeling pretty good.

2. We're all familiar with purring, which is another classic signal that your cat is feeling content. Still, there's something deeper going on when they start revving their engines – a message that you might not be aware of. Cats don't purr to communicate with other cats; they only do it for humans. That means your pet is specifically telling you how happy they are. A purring cat can be totally soothing when you're in a bad mood, but the sound has other surprising healing properties as well. Purring can be restorative to a cat's health, and it even helps heal problems with bones and tissues.

3. Beyond purrs and meows, your cat might occasionally make a high-pitched gurgling sound. It can sound pretty alarming if you aren't expecting it, but don't be afraid; it's just another way of trying to tell you something. Cats gurgle when they're feeling upbeat and social, so the sound is a positive sign. Your pet is just trying to chill out and have a friendly chat.



4. Have you ever been minding your own business when your cat runs over and headbutts you? Seems pretty rude, right? But there's a deeper meaning to that strange gesture when cats do it. Cats use scent glands in their head to mark their territory, meaning a headbutt is actually quite affectionate. Your cat is telling others that you are her person!

5. Cats are predators, which means they have some pretty sharp teeth. So when they turn those fangs on you, it has to mean something bad is going on, right? While an aggressive bite is obviously a negative sign, gentle nibbles are a demonstration of love. Your cat is just telling you that he appreciates your presence; after all, he's

choosing to bite you playfully instead of forcefully.

6. After biting, the obvious place to go is licking. If the former is a playful mark of endearment, what is your kitty trying to say with her scratchy tongue rather than her teeth? Have you ever seen apes grooming their relatives? Well that's what's happening when your cat tries to clean up your hand or hair! She's identified you as part of the family and wants to help take care of you.

7. If you ever see your cat flopped on the floor with his belly facing up, he's not just being lazy. In fact, there's a deeper significance to the pose that you might not realize. The phrase "soft underbelly" is grounded in reality; an animal's stomach is a weak point that they try to protect. If your cat lets you touch that sensitive area, that means he trusts you completely.



8. You probably know not to touch your cat's tail, but did you know he's using it to communicate? A bushy tail, for example, is a sign of distress, while a waving tail has another meaning. Cats really don't wag their tail, but they do flick it back and forth to show happiness. If your furry friend is feeling especially affectionate, they'll even curl their tail around you like a hug.

9. Have you ever woken up to find your cat has left a dead mouse or her favorite toy on your bed? These "presents" aren't the type of gift you might think, though. While your cat isn't giving you a gift out of appreciation, the gesture is still a mark of trust. Cats bring their prey back home so they can eat it safely; leaving it near you means that you're someone who won't steal their stuff.



10. Whether you call it kneading, making biscuits, or anything else, most cat owners have felt this one. When a cat presses her paws into you, they're trying to tell you something major about your relationship.

11. Since whiskers detect distances and movements by the air's vibration, they're actually crucial to a cat's survival in the outdoors. So don't be too alarmed if your cat runs off – they have survival tools built right into their bodies!

12. It may sound like the only thing your cat does is meow and purr, but felines can actually produce about 100 sounds! This certainly furthers the "cats are smarter than dogs" argument, considering how dogs only produce about 10 sounds.

13. If cat vs. dog intelligence has ever been debated, consider it resolved: Cats have 300 million neurons in their brains, while dogs have just 160 million. In fact, a cat's brain is considered to be extremely similar to a human's brain, so expect a feline uprising any day now.



DIY Cat Bed & Scratcher

Do you have a kitty that sleeps next to his scratching post? Having a place where he can sleep and scratch would be super cool, right? This is a no-sew craft so anyone can easily make it!

You will need:

A metal duct tube	Fleece
Sisal rope—about 250-300 feet	Batting
Duct tape	Different colored felt or pom poms (optional)
Glue gun and glue sticks	
Scissors	



Step 1

Step 1:

First, bend the tube into a circle and tape it up well with the duct tape.

Step 2:

Glue the end of sisal rope onto the tube. Start wrapping the sisal rope around and around the tube. Glue down the rope frequently to keep it in place. There will be spaces showing through. Wrap the rope around twice



Step 2

to cover up the holes. If you don't have extra rope, cut strips of rope and glue the rope into the gaps.



Step 3

Step 3:

Take your fleece and fold it in half. Put it on the table and put the rope donut on top. Trace around the outside of the donut. Then cut the fleece out.

Step 4:

Glue or sew the circles together leaving a small space so you can stuff it.

Step 5:

Stuff the circle until you think it is fluffy enough. (You can throw in some catnip here for an extra surprise for your kitty!) Glue the hole closed when you are finished stuffing.



Step 4



Step 5

Step 6:

Glue the fluffy circle pillow to one side of the donut to make the bed area. It looks pretty cool like this, but if you want it to really look like a donut, use the optional fleece cuttings or pom poms!

Step 7:

Take your different colored felt and cut it into little sprinkle shapes. You can also use pom poms if you don't want to cut so many sprinkles out.

Glue them randomly over the top of your donut!
~DIY with Ollie



Step 6



Step 7



Ask us about our adoption events. FatKatzAbq@gmail.com 505-293-2830



Ingrid



Clyde

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

An un-spayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

- One Year: 12
Two Years: 67
Three Years: 376
Four Years: 2,107
Five Years: 11,801
Six Years: 66,088
Seven Years: 370,092
Eight Years: 2,072,514
Nine Years: 11,606,077



WISH LIST

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Small garbage bags
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Gift cards - Revival Animal, Petco, PetSmart, WalMart or Zoetis

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 if interested.



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

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!

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)
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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!

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