

# The Scratching Post



K

A

F A T  
Feline Assistance Team

Helping Felines  
And Their Friends

T Z

Summer 2016

505-293-2830

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**See pg. 3  
for our  
upcoming  
fundraisers!**



## Talia

I am the Beatles momma. I am so sweet and want lots of attention and love my feather wand toys. I need the exercise to make sure I don't get too chunky. I get along with other kitties and just blend right in. I would be good as an only kitty or with other kitties.

F.A.T. KATZ is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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

## An Angel Found in the Land of Fire (How to Travel Safely With Your Pets)

Let us share a TRUE STORY with you about a tabby cat named Noel. She and her family were traveling across country in an RV when the unthinkable happened. Someone left the door open! It can happen in a split second! Noel was lost in a campground in the mountains of Angel Fire, New Mexico, very far from home and anything familiar. She is a kitty who had never been outside and had no idea where she was. She was lost 1,000 miles from her home! Her family only searched a few short hours before packing up and heading back to Texas. Never to return. We don't know Noel. We don't know her family and we don't know the rescue she was adopted from in Texas, but we heard of her horrible predicament and sprung into action. Two of our volunteers even drove the long six-hour round trip to where Noel had last been seen only to come home without her. As we write this article, we don't know where Noel is or if she is safe. Our hearts ache.



But wait! There is another piece to this story. A beautiful, surprising piece. As we were searching in tall, thick grasses for Noel, calling and meowing to her - out came another cat. Another little tabby girl! She stood right before us and allowed us to pick her up. At first we thought it had to be Noel! What were the chances we'd find a DIFFERENT lost cat where we were searching? A flood of emotions poured over us as we realized it, indeed, was a different cat. The other little girl we now had was sweet as she was skinny and covered in fleas. She slept most of the long ride back to Albuquerque, probably the best sleep she's had in a long time. She is tucked safely in a foster home, has already been spayed and will soon be available for adoption. We named her Nuri - in Hebrew the meaning of the name Nuri is *my fire...my light*. She is certainly a light in our hearts.

Nuri has already been tested negative for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, vaccinated, spayed and microchipped. She is available for adoption and is oh, so sweet. She is a little alpha female so gets along with easy going kitties. She wants attention like crazy so be ready to fill her life with LOTS OF LOVE!!

If interested in adopting Nuri, please contact us at 505-293-2830, FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com or [www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq](http://www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq).

### Please take note of these important tips for traveling safely with your pets:

- ◆ When traveling by car, cats belong in carriers. It's important to restrain these carriers with a seat belt.
- ◆ Keep your pet in the back seat. If an airbag deploys while your pet is in the passenger seat (even in a crate) it might injure your pet.
- ◆ Traveling with dogs? Keep those heads and paws inside!
- ◆ Don't EVER leave your pet alone in a car.
- ◆ Before opening any door make certain your pet is safe and secured!
- ◆ Make sure your pets are microchipped for identification and wearing a collar with a tag imprinted with your home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone number and any other relevant contact information.
- ◆ What's in your pet's traveling kit? In addition to travel papers, food, bowl, plenty of water, and first-aid kit, pack a favorite toy or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity.
- ◆ Bring a recent picture of your pet, which is easy for so many of us, as our cell phones are filled with pics of our favorite furry family members.
- ◆ Check out pet-friendly hotels before you travel. [www.GoPetFriendly.com](http://www.GoPetFriendly.com) offers a wealth of information.
- ◆ Last but not least. As we still carry the hope Noel will find her way to safety, please think very carefully before considering an RV trip with your cats. The door to a motor home or camper is opened and shut far more frequently than your doors at home. If your cats escape in a campground far from home, it may be the last time you ever see them again.



# Homes Needed!

### Konah

I am a beautiful, sweet girl who loves to play and gets along with other cats and cat-friendly dogs. I would do best with my brother, Reese, as he misses and cries for me when I'm gone.



### Reese

I am super handsome, love to play, am curious and love to be with my foster siblings. I get along very well with other cats and cat-friendly dogs and would do well in any home. I need to go with my sister as she is my favorite companion!



### Olive

I am a very beautiful but shy girl. I need another kitty in the home and I will be happy. I will take a little longer to get used to you and I need another mellow kitty. An alpha kitty is too much for me.



### Calliope

I am so sweet! I love petting and lots of attention! I get along with other cats but would also be good as an only kitty. My sister Topaz is below.



### Topaz

I am a shy girl and would prefer a quiet home. I do get along with other kitties and would prefer older children if there are any in the home.



### Connor

I am a little shy but once I get to know you, I'm all about love and play. I would love to go with Odin however I get along with other kitties and cat-friendly dogs and need another kitty in my forever home.



### Odin

I am definitely a lap kitty! I will watch TV with you, work on your computer and chill. I also get along with other kitties and cat-friendly dogs.



### Thelma & Louise

We are two cute tortie sisters who love each other and to sleep with you. We will sleep on your pillow and want a loving, playful home. We love our foster siblings so we get along with other cats but haven't been around dogs yet.



### Sinatra

I can't even begin to tell you what a great boy I am! Pretty mellow and loving but when the feather wand comes out, things are different. I get along with other cats and cat-friendly dogs. I would do OK as an only kitty as well as long as you let me sleep on you!



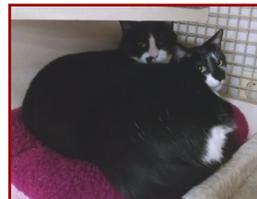
### Holly

I am an incredible player and lover. I have a super purrsonality and all I want is my forever home either as an only kitty or with other cats. I am OK with cat-friendly dogs too. I love watching soccer on TV!



### Nomey & Jerry

These two are like bookends. They are sweet and love to play with feather wand toys. They also like chilling on the bed and on their cat trees. They both get along with other cats and would prefer older children.



### Wordsworth

I am a handsome and slightly shy guy and will need time to adjust, but it will be worth it for you! I get along with other cats and need to have another kitty in the home to pal around with. If looking for two kitties, my sister Marguerita would be the perfect choice!



### Marguerita

I am a sweet girl that will ask you for attention. First, I will be shy and cautious but once I realize you're OK, I will be your best friend. I get along with other cats too. I would love to find a forever home with my brother Wordsworth.



### Echo

Can you say ADORABLE?? I am a shy little girl who just needs her own space and home to call her own. I am playful with my foster siblings, get along with other cats and would love to go to a home with my foster brothers or sister, Papaya, Mango or Sterling.



### Papaya

I am friendly yet shy and would love to have other kitties to play and snuggle with. I am good with cat-friendly dogs too. My favorite thing would be to go to a home with my foster sister Echo or my brother Mango.



### Mango

I am the Beatles momma. I am so sweet and want lots of attention and love my feather wand toys. I need the exercise to make sure I don't get too chunky. I get along with other kitties and just blend right in. I would be good as an only kitty or with other kitties.



### Cami

I am a beautiful and shy girl and will need time to adjust but it will be worth it for you! I have lots of love to give. I get along with other cats and need to have another kitty in the home to pal around with. If you're looking for two kitties together, my sister Viv would love to come home with you too!



### Viv

I am a sweet girl that will ask you for attention. At first, I will be shy and cautious but once I realize you're OK, I will be your best friend! I love to sleep with my foster mom, like petting and like catnip and treats. I use my scratching post and get along with other cats too!



### Halie

I am a sweet girl who would be OK as an only kitty or adopted with my sister Semper Fi. Once I get used to you, I am a lover not a fighter. I get along easily with other cats and like to play as well.



### Semper Fi

I am the most outgoing of the bunch and love to play and love. I am the one most in your face.

Sleeping with you and hanging and chilling are some of my favorite things. I get along with other kitties and if looking for two, my sister Halie would be great with me!

### Gambit

I can be the playful trickster, hiding my toys and making you look for them. I'm also looking for my human to curl up with. I get along with other cats and my brother Mimic would be a good choice for a pair of kitties.



### Mimic

I'm very friendly and outgoing boy who likes to play and love. I am good with other cats but would be OK as an only kitty too. My brother Gambit would be my first choice if you're looking for two.



### Ink For the Cause

Join us on Sat. Sept. 17th, 12-7pm at Ten Penny Tattoo, 225 San Pedro NE, for our second annual tattoo fundraiser. Save your money, stop in and get some fresh ink! There will be artist drawn designs to choose from and they will also work with you if you bring your own design (one that's not too big). They can be cat, dog, animal (or not) related.

### Ink For the Cause

#### Raffle Tickets for Sale

Sean Beuhler of Ten Penny is donating a tattoo that we will be raffling off! The tattoo will be either for a \$50.00 tattoo or \$50 towards a larger design. Drawing will be held at 7pm on Sept. 17 at Ten Penny Tattoo (No, you need not be present to win. Raffle tickets on sale from 7/26/16 through 9/17/16 at 6pm. \$2 each or \$10 for 6 (buy 5 get 1 free)



### 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 [FatKat-zAbq@Gmail.com](mailto:FatKat-zAbq@Gmail.com) and we can provide you with all the info you need!

### Bark In the Park

Come out to Olympus Park, 500 Quantum Rd., Sat. Sept. 17th, 10am-2pm. We will have our gift table set up and several other vendors, food, music, lure course and more! Bring your dog and family for doggie games, a parade, door prizes, shopping and fun!

### Week of the Animals Fiesta

Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 11-5, at the Rotary Park in Bernalillo will be a great day for the pet owners of the Town of Bernalillo. The mobile, low-cost, spay/neuter van will be on site as well as shopping, pet nutrition and supplies, face painting/henna and more! F.A.T. Katz will be in attendance with our cat-related gifts for sale and food and treat samples as giveaways! See you there!

### Dia De Los Perros

This event will be held at Tigux Park, 1898 Mountain NW, Oct. 9, 10am-3pm. Free, pet-friendly, family fun! Food, shopping, pet costume contest, tricks and other contests, kissing booth photos as well as a raffle and lure course. Many local vendors and rescues will be in attendance.

### Howl & Growl

A pet friendly, Halloween Party! Free admission and fun for the whole family. Sun. Oct. 30, 1-4pm, 8201 Golf Course NW. Pet costume contest, tricks and other contests, Halloween photos as well as a raffle. Food and local vendors and rescues will be in attendance. Super fun day, see you there!!!



### *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!



## Volunteer Spotlight

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

I first discovered Fat Katz in February 2013 when my family and I were casually shopping in Petco. We were a little hesitant to look because we had lost our cats in a house fire 11 months prior. We all knew we still had tender hearts but we love cats! How could we not visit? It didn't take long for my daughter to find Julius. I think it was love at first sight for both of them. After his adoption we discussed fostering. We all decided it would be the perfect way to celebrate the lives of the cats we lost and the deep love we had for them.

Ever since the summer of 2013 we have had various cats come through our home. Some have been with us for a short time, some have stayed for a while and some will stay with us until the end. Fostering has not only helped to heal our hearts from a tragic loss, it has led us to new friends, given us the chance to help cats who otherwise might not have ever had the chance to experience the love of a home and family and it's the perfect way for us to get involved. I get asked all the time, "How do you do it, knowing you'll have to one day say good-bye?" Well that's easy! I would rather have to say good-bye knowing my little friend will be going to a loving home than know I had the opportunity to get involved but didn't and he ended up taking his last breath scared and alone.



## All About Hairballs

A large clump of ingested hair can block a cat's intestinal tract and pose a deadly threat. Here's how to prevent them.

Every so often, your otherwise fastidious cat will do an alarming and somewhat disgusting thing. She'll awake from a peaceful nap, rise up on her paws, retch convulsively for a moment or two, and spit up what may appear at first glance to be a damp clump. What the animal has disgorged — in the middle of your kitchen floor or, worse yet, in the middle of your prized Persian rug — is a trichobezoar, a wad of undigested hair that is commonly referred to as a hairball.

Despite the term, disgorged hairballs are not usually round. They are often slender and cylindrical, shaped more like a cigar or sausage than a ball. According to Richard Goldstein, DVM, an associate professor of small animal medicine at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, a spit-up hairball's elongated shape is imparted by the narrow food tube (esophagus) in which it develops or through which it passes on its journey from the cat's stomach to the outside world. However, he notes, a hairball that is not disgorged and remains in the stomach will indeed be round — "like a sponge or a rolled-up sock," he says.

Regurgitated hairballs are variable in size; though usually about an inch long, they can be as long as five inches and an inch thick. The color is mainly that of the cat's coat, darkened by the color of the animal's food and various gastric secretions, such as green bile. The ejected matter will typically have an unpleasant but tolerable odor.

### Hazardous Potential

Hairballs are the unsavory by-product of a normal habit. As your cat grooms herself, she swallows a lot of loose hair. This happens because the tiny backward-slanted projections (papillae) that roughen the surface of her tongue propel the hair down her throat and into her stomach. Unfortunately, Dr. Goldstein explains, the main structural component of the hair — a tough, insoluble protein substance called keratin — is indigestible. While most of the swallowed hair eventually passes through the animal's digestive tract and gets excreted intact in the feces, some of it remains in the stomach and gradually accumulates into a damp clump — the hairball.

It's not uncommon, says Dr. Goldstein, for a cat to regurgitate a hairball once every week or two. Aside from inconvenience to the owner, this is nothing to worry about. However, the wad of matted hair can pose a serious health threat if it grows too large to pass through the narrow sphincters leading either from the esophagus to the stomach or from the stomach to the intestinal tract. Also threatening, he notes, is a hairball that manages to pass into the small intestine and become tightly lodged there. "This is uncommon," he notes, "but it is very serious when it does occur. Without surgical intervention, it can be fatal."

### Relieving the Obstruction

A cat that is lethargic, refuses to eat for more than a day or two or has had repeated episodes of unproductive retching or true vomiting should be examined by a veterinarian without delay, he advises. It's possible that the frequent hacking has nothing at all to do with hairballs. It may instead be a sign of another gastrointestinal problem or of a respiratory ailment, such as asthma, in which case emergency treatment may be necessary.

Diagnosis of intestinal blockage is based on physical examination, bloodwork, X-rays, perhaps ultrasound, and a history of the animal's pattern of hairball regurgitation. If a blockage is detected, surgery may be required in order to remove the hairball. More often, however, therapy will center on protecting the intestines through several days of clinical care that includes the use of a laxative to move the hairball through the digestive tract.

Although laxatives may be effective in enabling passage of a stubborn hairball, Dr. Goldstein strongly advises owners never to give their cats a laxative without the approval and supervision of a veterinarian. The same advice applies to the use of commercial diets that claim to be effective in preventing or relieving such an obstruction.

Kittens and young cats are less apt to develop hairballs than older cats that, as well-experienced groomers, are likely to spend a good portion of their waking hours busily licking their coats. Long-haired breeds — such as Persians and Maine Coons — may be at greater risk for developing hairballs than are short-haired breeds.

Some cats are, by nature, more fastidious than others in their grooming habits. And the development of hairballs is more frequent in seasons of the year when cats normally shed their coats. To minimize the development of hairballs and their complications, Dr. Goldstein recommends that owners get into the habit of brushing and combing their cats' coats daily.

~Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine



## Send Us Your Pictures!

We plan to continue our "Happy Tails" section in our newsletter but 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)

Happy Tails



Betty



Nancy



Florence



Chester

This cat nap  
brought to you by  
Nancy

Murphy



Chester &amp; Florence



John



Ringo



CHARLIE

There are eight adoptable F.A.T. Katz kitties on site at the cat café. All are ready for your visits and admiration.

The café features vegan/vegetarian meals, adoptable kitties and friendship. The door on the left takes you to food, pay the entrance fee, sign the waiver then go next door to visit with the kitties and relax for lunch. Gatos Y Galletas, 414 Central SE.

The kitties always need canned food so if you'd like to donate some, please contact us at [FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com) or 505-293-2830 to arrange a drop off!

**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 other adoptable kitties at our adoption center at Petco, 6300 San Mateo NE, weekly, Saturdays & Sundays 11am-5pm.**

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

### Home Made Treats From Canned Food

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Spread 1/2 can of cat food onto a sheet of waxed paper.
3. Cut the flattened cat food into triangles, or use small cookie cutters, each 1/2 inch thick.
4. Place the triangles on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake in the oven for 15 minutes.
5. Flip the triangles, and bake for another 15 minutes.



Let cat treats cool completely before serving to your cat.

## 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.



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

Julius checking in!  
Thanks Barbara,  
Tony & Kathleen  
for giving this  
amazing boy his  
forever!!



**WISH LIST**

- Cat litter - clumping and non-clumping
- Toys, catnip
- Cat beds
- Foaming, non-alcohol hand sanitizer
- Copy paper, printable address labels
- Stamps - postcard and first-class
- Volunteers for adoption or special events
- Sponsor a newsletter
- Commercial printing services

- Canned & dry foods
- Scratching posts, trees & cardboard scratchers
- Towels
- Small garbage bags
- Printable postcards (4 to a pg), printer ink
- Foster homes
- Gift cards - Revival Animal, Petco, PetSmart, WalMart or Idexx
- Sponsor a newspaper advertisement

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](mailto:FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com)**

**If you are interested in an email version of the newsletter, please email us at [FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@Gmail.com)**

**F.A.T. KATZ – P.O. Box 90394 – Albuquerque, NM 87199-0394  
505-293-2830 or [FatKatzAbq@gmail.com](mailto:FatKatzAbq@gmail.com) [www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq](http://www.Facebook.com/FatKatzAbq) [www.FatKatzAbq.org](http://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)
- Star (\$500)
- Hero (\$250)
- Friend (\$100)
- Sponsor or Family (\$50)
- Individual (\$30)
- Active Volunteers (\$10)
- Student, Seniors, Low Income (\$10)

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.