



Mewsletter

For the friends of the Independent Cat Society, a no-kill cat shelter

Summer 2004

Nissa stays on the sunny side of life

by Kristie Hill

Some cats just can't get a break.

Nissa, a nine-year-old handsome Siamese mix, is one of those cats. Despite the hard times he's seen, he continues to smile and love his fellow cats and caretakers at the shelter.

Nissa came to the Independent Cat Society as a kitten in 1995. His unique Siamese markings and blue eyes ensured he would find a home quickly. He was soon adopted by one of our volunteers.

All went well for many years, until early 2003, when Nissa's luck took a turn for the worse. His owner passed away and Nissa was returned to the shelter. Now, besides missing his beloved owner, Nissa had new surroundings to adjust to. Confronting and adjusting to the new sights, sounds, smells and other cats can be challenging and emotionally stressful.

At first Nissa was sad and confused, but eventually, with lots of love from our staff and volunteers, he came around. He started eating better and purred when we petted him. We saw that familiar spark of happiness return to his eyes. Soon we realized it was impossible to resist those gorgeous blue eyes that gently and lovingly looked back at ours. As a result, we continued to give Nissa lots of extra love.

In late 2003, Nissa had more bad news to contend with. A routine trip to the veterinarian revealed that he had early stage kidney failure and early stage cardiomyopathy. Cardiomyopathy is a disease that affects the heart muscles and impairs heart function.

We caught Nissa's health problems early and started treatment right away. He now takes a small dose of heart medicine daily. We hope to successfully manage his disease this way and give him many more happy and healthy years to love and be loved. For now, his kidney failure is so minimal that it doesn't require any treatment.

Despite his troubles, Nissa is still his handsome and friendly old self. Perhaps his story is a good example for us, as it shows us how to face our own adversities in life.



Nissa maintains his sunny disposition, despite his hardships.

Since his diseases are in their early stages, he shows no signs of illness and continues to be full of the love and curiosity that has helped him conquer difficult times and win a special place in our hearts. We should all be so brave and loving.

If you would like to adopt Nissa, please visit him during weekend adoption hours, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or call us for an appointment during the week..

Inside . . .

Last chance for Las Vegas tickets 2

**Spring cleaning?
Check out our Wish List 3**

Come to our first Kitten Shower 4

Why two are better than one 5

Mewsletter

Published for the friends of the Independent Cat Society, Inc.
PO Box 735, Westville, IN 46391
(219) 785-4936 www.catsociety.org

The Independent Cat Society, Inc., founded in 1977, is a nonprofit, no-kill cat shelter on US Rt 6 at the Porter/La Porte County Line Road in Westville, Indiana.

The Independent Cat Society mission is to promote the welfare of all animals, especially cats, by reducing pet overpopulation, educating the public, preventing cruelties to animals, promoting responsible pet ownership and working for more humane legislation.

Adoption hours:

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sundays, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Others by appointment.
Please call (219) 785-4936.

Adoption fee: \$65

Includes: Spay/neuter, vet exam, feline leukemia and FIV test; age-appropriate vaccinations; parasite treatment; tattoo ID; and cardboard cat carrier.



Board of Directors

Susan O'Leary, President
Paulette Gonzalez, Vice President
Sandra Robelia, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Bolton, Corresponding Secretary
Carol Tomerlin, Treasurer
Board members: Brenda Mikolajczak, Susan Ogg, James Granzow, Carol Albrecht

The Board of Directors meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please call the shelter for meeting location.

Calendar of Events

SPRING ADOPTION SPECIAL: Adopt a kitten or adult cat for \$65, and adopt a companion for \$25. Visit the shelter, or our Web site, www.catsociety.org, for details and beautiful photos of adoptable cats and kittens!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! 2004 "Viva Las Vegas" Trip Raffle! Vacation for two, includes 4 days, airfare & hotel on the Las Vegas strip! Drawing is Sunday, June 27, 4 p.m. at the shelter. Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10, available at the shelter; Ark of the Dunes Animal Hospital and Chesterton Travel, in Chesterton; at Westchester Animal Clinic in Porter; Pet Supplies Plus, in Valparaiso; and Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed and Wildlife Emporium, in Michigan City; and at all our events! Tickets also available by mail (bottom of this page).

Summer Open House: A Kitten Shower,

Saturday, June 26, 10am-4pm, and Sunday, June 27, 1pm - 4pm

Welcome our new arrivals with a gift fit for kittens and their moms. Our moms and kittens are registered for the Kitten Shower (yes, the really are!) at Pet Supplies Plus and Kmart, in Valparaiso; and Brandt's, in Michigan City. Ask the store salesperson for our Kitten Shower Gift List before you shop. Our Open House/Kitten Shower will feature hourly door prizes and free refreshments; adoptions of cats and kittens; a plant sale and bake sale; and cat toys, beds and gifts, and homegrown catnip for sale.

Jewel Shop-N-Share, Monday, June 28; Tuesday, June 29; Wednesday, June 30. The shelter will receive 5% of your purchases on these days. Use the coupon on p.7.

Garden Tour, Sunday, July 25, 1 pm - 3 pm. Tour five acres of flowering trees, shrubs, and plants at Wiegles Gardens, in nearby Springville. Tickets: \$12 each. Mail check or money order, payable to the "Independent Cat Society," to: Leah Balsham, Box 349, Beverly Shores, IN 46301. For information, call Leah at (219) 872-3033 or the shelter, (219) 785-4936.

Schoolhouse Shop Fundraiser, Saturday, October 2, 10 am - 4 pm

Cat crafts, bake sale, refreshments.

Independent Cat Society CATHOUSE COOKIES COOKBOOK -- Only \$5! Available at the shelter or on our Web site -- www.catsociety.org. Delicious treat recipes from our friends and supporters!

2004 Viva Las Vegas! Raffle

Vacation for two: 4 days, airfare & hotel on the strip!

Drawing: Sunday, June 27, 2004

Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

No. of tickets _____ Check or money order enclosed for \$ _____

Send to ICS, PO Box 735, Westville, IN, 46391.

President's Message

Seraphim has a personality to match his name: He's an angel.

This former tomcat wasn't always so innocent. His tattered face and ears tell us he's been in his share of cat-fights. Maybe that's why he always wants to be cuddled, like a worn old teddy bear. He's said goodbye to being a "thug" — and now, he can't get enough hugs!

Seraphim is FIV positive. FIV is contagious, so Seraphim lives in a special room at the shelter with two other FIV positive buddies. Cats with FIV can have other health problems, too. Seraphim has itchy bumps we think are from allergies.

Many of you heard about Seraphim's problem, and you sent us generous donations to help with his medical treatment. We're happy to report that Seraphim recently saw a vet, and he's getting some relief, thanks to your donations!

We have many cats who have ongoing health problems:

- eleven cats have allergies
- twelve cats have mouth infections
- fifteen cats have eye infections
- seven cats have kidney disease
- five cats have bladder inflammations
- four cats have urinary crystals
- seven cats have heart problems
- five cats have diabetes
- two cats have hyperactive thyroids
- one cats has kidney stones
- thirteen cats have ongoing diarrhea
- two cats have cancer

Our cats are growing older. We all know that old age means more health problems! Shelter living is also stressful. So, the cats age quickly, and the stress can cause health problems.

If you think these cats are suffering, visit them at the shelter. You'll see they have a warm and clean place to sleep, good food and lots of love and attention from our staff. Having a permanent home would be best, and we hope for that. Until they find homes, we make sure we meet all



The angelic Seraphim

their needs.

Healthcare, for humans or animals, is expensive. Despite generous discounts from our vets and the fact that we run the shelter mostly with volunteers, we must raise \$20,000 to pay our expenses.

This is a very difficult time for us. Will you help us through it?

We know other charities ask for your help, too. So, we're so grateful for your continued support. You really care, and you believe in helping cats, like Seraphim.

For all homeless creatures who live because of your compassion, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

PLEASE NOTE:

Independent Cat Society Members in good standing are welcomed to vote on amendments to the Independent Cat Society, Inc. by-laws at the regular Board of Directors meeting, Monday, June 28, 2004, 7:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Valparaiso.

Wish List

Please note that our "Wish List" always changes.

Please help us make the cats wishes come true!



Please note: We do not use litter pan liner bags, hooded litter pans, newspapers, or Pine Sol and other pine cleaners. THANK YOU!

Special needs:

- Pet Temp ear thermometer for pets (from Revival Animal Health: 1-800-786-4751)
- New 2x4s for construction
- Pet bowls that hook on cage bars
- Funds to purchase 48' white gutters with two downspouts

Supplies:

- Cat litter
- Paper towels
- 6" & 9" paper plates
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Large and x-large trash bags

Food:

- Fancy Feast: ground variety, not chunks or sliced
- Innova, Iams, Eagle Pack or Science Diet canned or dry food

Office:

- Postage stamps
- 35mm color film
- Liquid correction fluid, white or buff
- Buff and colored card stock
- Index cards, 3x5 and 4x6

Thank you for your gifts!
Please allow us to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donations.

We're having a

Kitten Shower

at our Summer Open House

Saturday, June 26, 10am - 4pm
and Sunday, June 27, 1pm - 4pm



Hourly door prizes Free refreshments Spring plant sale Bake sale
Adoptions of our beautiful kittens and cats
Cat crafts, toys, beds and homegrown catnip for sale!

Our moms & kittens are registered for shower gifts at local merchants! Please ask for our Kitten Shower gift list when shopping.

Kmart, and Pet Supplies Plus, in Valparaiso:

Brandt's Old Fashion Pet, Feed and Wildlife Emporium, Michigan City.

"Teenagers" looking for homes

We may be "teens," but we won't sit on the phone for hours, or bug you to take us to the mall! In fact, adopt two of us -- for twice the love!



Ethan

A one-year old, mellow fellow who loves to purr. Ethan needs the kindness and comfort of a loving home, like yours!



Zipper

Zipper, who is shy at first, loves to play. This one-year-old male deserves a loving home -- won't you find a place for him in yours?



Lenny

This one-year-old's name says it all! Lenny's fun-loving and active. He loves attention from people and is always "in" on the action.

Two are more fun (and happier) than one!

Want to be a happy pet owner? Don't stop at one — adopt *two*.

Most cats, despite their age, are highly social. They are happier living with other cat companions. This makes them better pets -- which makes happier owners!

Kittens, especially, should be adopted in pairs. Why?

Curiosity galore

Kittens are curious. They crave constant stimulation. A single kitten could easily become bored. It might entertain itself by chewing on plants, climbing drapes and furniture, unrolling toilet paper, or exploring electrical cords and sockets. Kittens who live with other kittens are less likely to engage in these dangerous and destructive behaviors.

Busy as bees

Kittens are active, especially at night. A single kitten may wake her owner with jumping, pouncing and other hunting behavior. Two kittens will occupy each other by finding interesting shadows to chase and games to play until they finally tire and fall asleep, too.

Feline WWF

It's normal for kittens to play bite and wrestle. Without a litter mate or other kitten to play with, a kitten will bite and wrestle with its human, which is unacceptable.

First, never encourage this behavior. Use a toy instead of your hand or fingers to play with the kitten. You might think biting is cute now, but once your kitten is an adult, this behavior will be annoying, and possibly painful. If your kitten grows up with another kitten, this negative behavior is minimized.

Time and attention

Even if you are home during the day, the attention a single kitten



John Boy and Mary Ellen are a brother and a sister who were lucky enough to be adopted by the same loving guardian.

demands could occupy all of your waking hours. A pair of kittens will also want to interact with you, but they can occupy each other while you are involved in daily activities.

“Plays well with others”

Kittens want and need interaction with other kittens for healthy social development. A kitten learns from its mother and littermates. Separating a kitten from its mother is often necessary for adoption. But taking a kitten away from its littermates can delay his development emotionally, socially and physically. Kittens who remain with a littermate or a similarly-aged companion are healthier, happier and better socialized.

Generation gap

Think twice about bringing a kitten home to a senior feline resident. A kitten can have too much energy for an older cat. Kittens want to play and run constantly and require a lot of interaction. This may overwhelm and irritate an older cat, and the kitten may be frustrated that her older companion doesn't have her energy level. This creates two unhappy cats. It can also cause behavior problems, such as litter box avoidance or destructive scratching. The two may never have a

close relationship because their initial experience with one another was negative. An older cat is better matched with someone of her own age and temperament.

In general, adopting a single kitten or young cat is not the best idea. Trying to keep a single kitten occupied, stimulated, safe and happy, while going about your busy day is much more challenging than it seems.

Our goal at the Independent Cat Society is to make sure we adopt our cats and kittens into loving and lasting homes. Please consider that bringing a new pet into your home creates big changes.

We want you to be happy with the cat or kitten you adopt from the Independent Cat Society. It is equally important to us that the animal you adopt also is happy and healthy, so please think carefully about your choices.

If you have any questions, ask one of our adoption counselors, or call us at (219) 785-4936.

— Adapted from PAWS Chicago Web site, October 2003



Looking for a unique gift? Sponsor-A-Cat!

Sponsor-A-Cat is a great gift for the cat lover who has everything! Choose from two payment options: \$120 now for a gift of one full year of Sponsor-A-Cat OR \$10 (or more) per month

YES! I want to give the gift of Sponsor-a-Cat from the Independent Cat Society.

I have enclosed a check for:

_____ \$120 for one year of Sponsor-A-Cat

_____ \$ 10 or _____ for the first month of Sponsor-A-Cat gift. I pledge to send \$10 each month to Sponsor-A-Cat.

The sponsor will receive a photo and biography of his or her Sponsor-A-Cat.

Name of sponsor _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Month of sponsor's birthday _____ email address _____

Mail to: Sponsor-A-Cat, Independent Cat Society, P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391

Strays who stay

The sun was shining bright and warm. It was a late summer day perfect for a walk downtown. That's what she thought. Strolling across Indiana Avenue, she passed in front of my car with her jaunty little walk, not a care in the world. Luckily, she had the green light!

On my way to the library to deliver the Independent Cat Society newsletter filled with stories of shelter cats and their sad "tales of the street," I was aware of the danger this little lady was in. She was small, only a few months old, and determined to make the acquaintance of everyone she saw. So friendly and clean, she was surely someone's pet.

Believing her time to be short if left to her own innocent devices, I picked her up and placed her in the car with me. That short drive home suddenly turned long as I asked myself, "Now what am I going to do with her?" Fellow animal lovers, how many times have you been in this situation?

I was sure a loving family missed her, so I prepared her a comfortable spot in the garage. The local newspaper ran a free "found" ad. I received no response to the ad. Content with my two cats, I had no desire to add a third. For those of you reading this or who are in a similar situation, the following information is the same advice I've given myself.

Staff of the Independent Cat Society, and other shelters, are

Mewsings

By Becky Zurawski



happy to offer advice and counseling to help you add a cat to your home. Our adoption counselors answer many questions from people who are trying to make an addition to their household a pleasant one.

Stop at the Independent Cat Society and pick up our handout that contains suggestions on what to do when you find a stray cat. It also lists organizations to contact if you have questions or you decide you can't keep the cat.

Only two percent of lost cats at shelters are reunited with their owners. Do what you can to find a home for the stray you've found. Many newspapers will run free "found" ads. You may also place a description of the found cat in public

places, like supermarket bulletin boards or veterinary clinics. Check with your local shelter first to be sure the owner hasn't reported the loss.

Any animal welfare organization can tell you — and many have Web sites that show you — the horror stories of animals left to "fend for themselves." A domesticated cat who is shivering in the cold, or starving crouched under someone's porch in fear, isn't "nature." We've made them dependent on humans for their survival, and we are responsible for helping them survive if they get left behind during a move, or happen to go for a walk on a sunny day.

Please do all you can to keep the strays you find, or at least help the cat or kitten find another safe place to live.

Thank you . . .

Thank you all for your donations, letters, visits and volunteer time. Each of you is special, and we are grateful for your loyal support.

Sterling Hope Women/DreamMaker Kitchens, for a copy machine, paper towels, and other supplies.
Becky Bolton, for two toddler beds the cats love to lay on.
Forrest and Molly Connolly, for taking our aluminum cans to the recycler.
An anonymous donor, for a new security system for the shelter.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Heavilin, for funds to pay for a new roof for our isolation building.
Barb Caruso, for a cement birdbath for our garden.

In Loving Memory of . . .

Gypsy Romeo -- Forever loved and remembered. Sadly missed by Kristie Hill and family.
Robert Helms - Jane Stachowski, LaPorte Community Federal Credit Union, Sharon & Clemons Bennett, Linda Elwell, Janice Price
Carol Bratcher - Gerald & Carol Kietzman
Roberta McDonald - Mr & Mrs. W. Robertson, Midwest Steel ERT Department
Helen Wagner - Marianne Griffin
Anita Andrews - Jean Gerometta, Marti Rukavina
Trudy Carter - Skip and Doris Baureis
Michael Minard - Mattie Minard, Terry Howie

Betty Jane Farley - Don and Karen Sidor
Richard Keane - Patricia Keane
Joan Sophie Carlson - Tina Pogue
Norman Wolford - Marilyn Muniz
Andy and Barney - Ralph Heavilin
Christopher - Sherry Bielefeldt
Cleo, my lap cat - Maryann Potts
Blackie and KC - Mr. and Mrs. Grygotis
Sam - Ron and Sharon Bullard
Honey - Nathalie Pennington
Boris - Sally and Rich Biel
Rainey, Blackie and KC - Kim Neuberg
Sabrina, my little angel - Marilyn Muniz
Krisan and Jessica - Kathy Heath
Felix (aka Mabis) - Aaron, Becky, Kelsey and AJ
In name of Julie Bull - Jo Arnold
Zoey, Natasha, Lady and Naomi -- You are all at peace now. We will always miss you. Independent Cat Society volunteers and employees.

In Honor of . . .

Dr. Randi Olson, Barb Murphy and staff at Vale Park Animal Hospital, who helped make Sam's latter years the best they could be - Patricia Tabor
Walter Schultz - Beth Smith

All items were received 1/20/04 - 3/31/04. Kindly limit your message to 20 words or less.
If we have inadvertently omitted your notice, please call us, (219) 785-4936, so that we may correct our error.

Shop at Jewel-Osco and earn cash for the shelter!

The Independent Cat Society will receive 5% of your total purchases on the dates listed. Thank you for your generosity!

	SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP												
	0611664					AMOUNT OF PURCHASE							
GROUP NUMBER					STORE NUMBER					DOLLARS		CENTS	
GROUP: Independent Cat Society, Inc.													
YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: 06/28/2004, 06/29/2004, 06/30/2004													
SIGNATURE _____													
PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP. PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL-OSCO ON THE DATE ABOVE. IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL-OSCO.													
													

INDEPENDENT CAT SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 735
WESTVILLE, IN 46391



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DON'T MISS
THESE EVENTS!**

Summer Open House:
"A Kitten Shower!"
Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27

2004 "Viva Las Vegas" Trip Raffle!
Tickets: \$4 each, or 3 for \$10
Drawing: Sunday, June 27, 4 pm

Garden Tour, Sunday, July 25

Visit us on the Web
at www.catsociety.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Valparaiso, IN
Permit No. 134



Will you help the Independent Cat Society cats?

Become a Member!

Annual Dues:

- \$500 Sustaining
- \$100 Life
- \$ 50 Gold Star
- \$ 25 Family
- \$ 15 Single
- \$ 5 Student
- \$ 5 Senior

Donate or Volunteer!

- I am donating \$_____ for the care of the cats and kittens.
- I am donating \$_____ to the Building Fund.
- I will help groom cats at the shelter.
- I will help give cats their medications.
- I will help at fundraising events.
- I will be a foster parent.
- I will donate my cat-themed artwork or crafts for fundraising events.
- I will bake for fundraising events.
- I will make adoption follow-up telephone calls
- I will help cats get good homes by becoming an adoption counselor.
- I will help take care of the grounds and maintain the shelter.
- I will distribute flyers for fundraisers.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Check if new address. Do not send thank you Phone _____ email _____

Clip and send to: Independent Cat Society, Inc., P.O. Box 735, Westville, IN 46391