

Mewsings

The newsletter of Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2010

Welcome!

Welcome to the June 2010 issue of the Thundering Paws newsletter. Beginning with this issue, Mewsings will be a quarterly publication. We look forward to keeping you updated with the goings-on of our happy family.

We are grateful for your continued support that allows us to help so many animals in need.

Volunteer Day A Big Success

Anne Zabolio



Volunteers Kathy Weston, Kris, Sarah and Beau Ledoux paint the kitty living room

Nothing could make me happier than to be adopted by a Starbucks! And Thundering Paws has been: the Starbucks “on the hill” in Oak Hill, a suburb of Austin, Texas.

When this Starbucks opened, they hired Bosco (a one name only kinda person, like Cher), friend of President of the Board, Laura LaMantia. Bosco told his fellow employees about Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary. They’re all cat people, and they wanted to help.

Inside this issue:

Meet Matissa	2
Saving Clancy	3
People's Pharmacy Donates	3
Meet Mason	4
Accomplishments of Volunteer Day	4
Meet Annie and Katie	5
Adoption Days at PetSmart	5

Manager Heath Taylor suggested we put a donation box in the store. We did, and it was broken into twice. We are in the process of finding a metal, locking donation box. Does anyone have any ideas how we could get such an item?



Deanne Cortesio, from the Oak Hill Starbucks, was on hand to help paint our kitty home

Heath also said we could “table” at the store so we set up a table with a donation jar on it, hung a sign from it, and had a volunteer

standing by it passing out literature to interested passers-by, asking for donations and spreading the word about the sanctuary. We have tabled there several times and the results were great.

The Oak Hill Starbucks also keeps Thundering Paws fliers on their bulletin board and, since several employees have been here, can tell their customers about the sanctuary, if asked.

Those folks are always coming up with ways to help us. In fact, Heath suggested we set up a volunteer day so we could participate in Starbucks' Make Your Mark program, in which, if an organization can log 100 volunteer hours in one day, using at least three Starbucks' employees, that organization is eligible for a \$1,000 grant from Starbucks.

We set it up for April 11th. We e-mailed all our volunteers at Thundering Paws, and the Starbucks people contacted their co-workers. We had 31 people here, including Heath, Aron Johnson, Zack Christman and Deanne Cortesio from Starbucks, over a 9 hour period, for a total of 117.15 volunteer hours. We have already been approved for the \$1,000 grant.

In addition, two of our...well, two...paid employees came and put in an additional 10 hours of work, and at least six people spent a total of at least 50 hours preparing for this massive effort!

A week later, the floor in the painted rooms was repaired and new vinyl was installed. The cats from this area have had trips to the vet for vaccinations, teeth and ear cleaning, and general check-ups. They are now released from their cages and happy to lay around sleeping in the sun in their new digs. The change in the room is miraculous, and the humans who work here are quite pleased, too. The bunnies and the dog haven't said much, but surely they enjoy the improved feng shui.



Laurel approves all the improvements that were made to her home

Starbucks will allow a non-profit organization to try for the \$1,000

grant three times a year, so we will do this again in August and in December. (We'll try to keep it all indoors in August.) Watch our website for dates and come help us get the 100 volunteer hours we'll need. Thanks so much to all who helped with this effort.

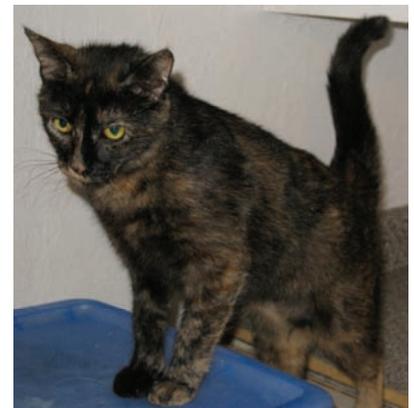
Meet Matissa



We are contacted at least once a day by people wanting to surrender animals. We seldom are able to take them: the reality of a no-kill shelter is that it is, by necessity, limited admission. However, when the young woman called to report a kitten about four or five months old in her yard, we had just adopted out two cats, and I said yes, we would take her.

Matissa is a pretty tortoiseshell kitten with loads of personality. She

loves to play with anything and talks a blue streak. Initially fearful and therefore "hissy" at the other cats, she has calmed down and even found someone to play with—Leah. She would probably be happiest as an only cat, but she seems to tolerate female playmates.



Thundering Paws has a guarantee, which means that, if for any reason, an animal has to return, that animal is welcome for the rest of his or her life. Matissa was adopted out to a woman with an older male cat, whose life she made miserable! She is now back and ready to try again.

Multipli"cat"ion Table

- ◆ Two unaltered breeding cats create 2 litters a year at a survival rate of 2.8 kittens per litter.
- ◆ With continued breeding:
 - ◆ Year 1 = 12 cats
 - ◆ Year 2 = 66 cats
 - ◆ Year 3 = 2,201 cats
 - ◆ Year 4 = 3,822 cats
 - ◆ Year 5 = 12,680 cats
 - ◆ Year 10 = 80,399,780 cats!

Saving Clancy

Anne Zabolio

I was heading from Austin to Dripping Springs about 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19th with a feral cat and a load of groceries. Which do I take home first? I am so very grateful that my decision was the feral cat!

As I drove toward his home where he is fed and cared for, I came upon a kitten who had been hit by a car and was lying in the road. If I can without endangering myself, I remove bodies from the road. I approached the tiny body with gloves on and noted that the kitten was still warm and pliable but wasn't sure if he was still alive; then he moved! He was comatose but alive. I didn't have a spare carrier, but I was less than a mile from where I was going to release the feral cat, so I told the kitten to stay alive and I would be back to take him to the vet. Of course, I moved him, worried that I was injuring him more, but unable to leave him in the roadway.

I raced to the feral cat's home, shooed him out of the carrier, flung some food at the gate, and barreled back to the kitten. He was breathing very quickly and shallowly, but breathing. I eased him into the carrier and sped to the closest vet, Sunset Canyon Veterinary Hospital. They examined him, gave him supportive care, and estimated he had about a 20% chance of surviving.

I called right before they closed at 6. Clancy was still alive, but his prognosis was guarded. The next morning, I called the minute they opened; he was alive and conscious. When I went to get him, he arched into my hand as I petted him. I had been afraid that he would turn out to be a feral kitten, but perhaps his injury erased the fear of humans from him.



Clancy hanging out in the lobby at Lake Austin Blvd. Animal Hospital

Examined at one of our regular veterinary hospitals, Lake Austin Blvd. Animal Hospital, he was found to be much improved from when he was examined the day before. He still had some signs of neurological damage, but we think he will continue to improve. He is making progress every day!

Clancy responds very well to stimuli and, like all kittens, likes to play.



Clancy charmed everyone who walked through the door of Lake Austin Blvd. Animal Hospital

"As anyone who has ever been around a cat for any length of time well knows cats have enormous patience with the limitations of the human kind."

-Cleveland Amory

People's Pharmacy Donates to Thundering Paws

People's Pharmacy owner, Bill Swail, RPh., decided to give a percentage of the prescriptions his pharmacies fill for animals to rescue groups. Thundering Paws is the grateful recipient of Mr. Swail's largesse for all prescriptions filled for cats and bunnies.

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs receives donations on prescriptions filled for dogs. Percentages of prescriptions filled for exotic animals go to the Austin Zoo, an all rescue zoo.

We are proud just to be in the league of such impressive animal rescue organizations!

If your pet needs a prescription, please ask your veterinarian to have it filled or compounded at one of the People's Pharmacy locations listed below.

4018 N. Lamar Blvd., 459-9090

3801 S. Lamar Blvd., 444-8866

4201 Westbank Dr., 327-8877

13860 183 N. at Hwy. 620, 219-9499

211 S. Bell Blvd. In Cedar Park, for Specialty Compounding, 219-0724



Austin's Favorite Pharmacy



June is National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

Thundering Paws has several kitties that need a forever home. Please consider making room for one in your heart and home.

Meet Mason



Mason wandered into a volunteer's yard, lured by the food she puts out for feral cats. Trapped and taken to her vet, he was neutered, and found to be FIV positive. FIV is the virus that causes the so-called "kitty AIDS." It is an immune deficiency disorder, however, doesn't seem to manifest as predictably nor as strongly as the similar virus in humans. We have personally known cats with FIV to live full and healthy lives, including one who died at 20 years of age!

Mason was also found to have had broken bones in his right front leg, now healed but crooked. He walks slowly because of this... and because he is quite chubby. He is on a diet here at Thundering Paws, tolerating it well, and losing weight slowly.

Mason gave up being a feral cat almost immediately. For a while he had a roommate in the bathroom in which he lives. Since his roommate got adopted, he is without feline companionship, but is visited by many volunteers during the day. He is friendly and quite goofy. He grunts when he is excited and he is almost always excited when he is being petted. He would be a loving, profoundly cute and amusing pet.

It's Early, But Mark Your Calendars

Our annual benefit, Pawstock, will be held this year on Sunday, October 3rd. We're not sure where, or who will be playing, but we will have good music, good food, and a great silent auction. Please plan on coming, and bringing your friends. More information will be forthcoming as we develop the plan.

Read About the Accomplishments of Our Volunteer Day

Accomplishments of the volunteers include: painting 700 square feet with two coats of paint; ripping off all the old baseboards in preparation for new flooring and baseboards; building stairs off a deck; thoroughly cleaning two kitty rooms; replacing a cat passageway from one room to the screened porch; carpentry repairs, putting up braces for hanging baskets to beautify the front; piling junk to be hauled off to the dump; assembling a large futon frame for cat bedding; straightening up the storeroom; folding all the clean laundry; scrubbing down a 700 sq. ft. screened cat enclosure; cleaning and re-working seven cat condos and trees; cleaning cabinets; moving 10 cages of cats and two of bunnies; vacuuming most of the inside area; pruning several out of control bushes; feeding a colony of feral cats; scooping about 25 litter boxes, feeding and watering all the animals twice; feeding the whole crew and supplying them with all the coffee they could drink, scrubbing two week's worth of litter boxes, litter scoops, and carriers; and, one volunteer even took a dog for a sleepover (but we didn't count that in the hours). That's a lot of work!

"When I play with my cat, how do I know that she is not passing time with me rather than I with her?"

- Montaigne

Meet Katie and Annie



Annie perches on the window sill

In the summer of 2004, a neighbor of a couple of volunteers called to report that the family who had lived next door had moved, leaving three mother cats and eleven kittens. We went to the location, trapped some, picked up some, and brought them all to Thundering Paws. We were younger then, emptier, and able to do a more large scale rescue.



Katie sleeps above the refrigerator on top of the cabinets

Over the ensuing years, all but one of these kitties has been adopted out. Actually, Betsy Toes was adopted out once, but was returned because—as is sometimes the case—she didn't get along with the adopter's first cat. Annie and Katie, who we believe are either aunt and niece or grandmother and granddaughter, were adopted together. They love each other and we refused to separate them.

The lady who adopted these kitties fell in love and married. Sadly, her new husband's allergies were exacerbated by the cats. The couple is quite unhappy to lose their cats, but are glad they can be returned to Thundering Paws. Annie and Katie are beautiful and sweet, and would love another loving home.

"You will always be lucky if you know how to make friends with strange cats."

- Colonial proverb

Adopt An Animal From Us At PetSmart

Every Saturday and Sunday afternoons, at PetSmart on Brodie Lane in South Austin, our adoption coordinator, Melissa Caffey, and many of our foster parents hold adoptions. We usually have cats, kittens, dogs and puppies for adoption.

The volunteers who set up adoptions, usually with animals they foster in their homes, receive visitors between 1 and 7 p.m.



If you have questions about adoptions, you may call Melissa at 512-577-0925, or e-mail her at melissacaffey@yahoo.com.

Check out our web site for adoptable sweethearts.

Did You Know We Are On Facebook?

If you use Facebook check out the Thundering Paws group next time you visit your profile by searching for Thundering Paws.

You can also type www.groups.to/thunderingpaws/ directly to get to the group page. Let's be friends!

Sanctuary Makeover

Anne Zabolio

A volunteer, Karen Font, and her daughter Victoria, came over to help; they did the evening chores—scooping, feeding, and changing water—and then Karen swept and mopped the largest room. After a few times doing this, and trying to get stains out of the old, dirty ceramic tile and grout, Karen politely suggested that perhaps it was time for a new floor. I heartily agreed.

Not only did Karen secure a donation from Home Depot on Brodie

Lane for 1100 sq. ft. of beautiful, high quality vinyl flooring, she raised most of the funds to have the work done

Because we were having new flooring, we decided to paint the largest area during the Starbucks Make Your Mark volunteer day.

The result is an elegant, open space which is easy to keep clean and a joy in which to work...and play, run, and sleep if you happen to be a cat.



Kitties love the new floor and so do volunteers because it is so much easier to clean

*"There are few things in life more heartwarming than to be welcomed by a cat."
- Tay Hohoff*

Would You Like To Volunteer?

Thundering Paws is always looking for new volunteers. As you can imagine, it takes lots of resources to take care of 60+ kitties. There's cleaning, feeding, watering and of course kitties need lots of love. Other volunteer activities include manning (or womaning) tables that are set up in various locations to provide information to the public and collect donations and taking animals to adoption (see our PetSmart story). If you have the time and would like to give some of your love to the kitties of Thundering Paws, contact <mailto:anne@thunderingpaws.org> or call 512-402-9725.

Of course it takes money to provide food and healthcare directly to the cats and to maintain their home (utilities, etc.). There are many ways to support Thundering Paws financially; one-time donations, continuing donations, conducting your online shopping through iGive, searching the internet using Goodsearch, associating your Randalls Remarkable Card to us using their Good Neighbor Program and clicking through the link on our web site to complete online purchases at PetSmart through their Affiliate Program. More information about all of these options can be found on our web site: www.thunderingpaws.org

We are grateful to all the support, both through volunteering time and providing financial donations. Thank you.

Our Wishlist

Help make our wishes come true by donating an item to us on this wishlist! We will be happy to provide a tax-deductible letter for your donation.

- ◆ Gift certificates for Petco, Tomlinson's, Petsmart, Costco, HEB, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, or Tractor Supply
- ◆ Land in Dripping Springs/Henly/Wimberley area
- ◆ Any working vehicle which we can sell
- ◆ Free spays and neuters from your vet
- ◆ Premium dry cat food (esp. Authority Adult, Max Cat Adult and Science Diet Adult)
- ◆ Bug proof food dishes (dishes with little feet on them, but NOT ones that use water underneath the food)
- ◆ Mops, brooms, whisk brooms and dust pans
- ◆ New cat toys
- ◆ Frontline and Revolution all sizes
- ◆ Unopened gallon jugs of water
- ◆ Small pet carriers
- ◆ Two- or three-door cages of any size, especially light weight ones
- ◆ Scoopable cat litter
- ◆ Long handle, hard bristle brooms for scrubbing concrete
- ◆ Organic soap
- ◆ Window screens with hardware cloth on both sides
- ◆ Packages of timothy hay
- ◆ New white faux-sheepskin cat beds (they launder best)
- ◆ Stamps
- ◆ Storage sheds
- ◆ White water-based glossy interior paint and plumbing supplies
- ◆ Gutters, downspouts, plumbing and tanks for a rainwater storage system

A safe cat is a happy cat.

Thundering Paws has been keeping cats safe for 9 years.

Please help us continue to keep cats safe and happy for years to come.



Our Direct Deposit Form

Won't you let us draft \$10.00 (the cost of keeping one cat in food and litter) or more from your bank account monthly, using the form below? In this way we are building an operating budget. It takes close to \$6000 a month to run the sanctuary. How we come up with it is miraculous! To do so, we wrack nerves which could better be used to save animals. So please become one of our regular contributors. You will save many, many lives.

Thundering Paws

A Program of Central Texas Animal Sanctuary

P.O. Box 1555

Dripping Springs, TX 78620-1555

512/402-9725

www.thunderingpaws.org

Authorization for Direct Deposit (ACH Deposit) of Monthly Donations

I authorize ***Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary*** to initiate variable* entries into my account described below:

Account Number _____ Checking ____ or Savings ____

Name and address of Bank, Credit Union, or other financial institution _____

Name on Account _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

Amount \$ _____ Draft funds on the 5th of the month _____ or the 20th of the month _____.

Signature _____ Date _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary has received written notification from an authorized individual of its termination in such time and manner as to afford Thundering Paws a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

Please attach a voided check.

* The word "variable" in this instance pertains to the ability of Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary to draft monies out of the above account and, if a cancellation order is received after a monthly draft has been taken, to refund that donation back into the account.

To cancel this authorization, please send a copy of this form with the word "CANCEL" prominently written across it to the above address.

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary thanks you for your tax deductible donations. You will receive a yearly summary of your donations in January.