

# NAFC Animal Shelter News

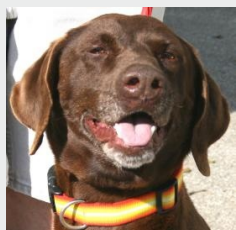
www.nafcanimalshelter.org

June 2012

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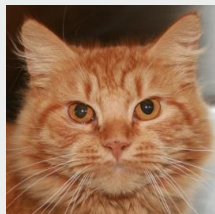
## Classifieds



BJ

Lab Mix  
5 Years  
Neutered  
Male

I am an active girl that just wants to please. I love people and dogs and would rather be with someone if possible.



Penelope

DLH  
10 Months  
Spayed  
Female

I am a gorgeous girl with long flowing hair. I want things my way. If you are good with that, we will make a great pair!

## CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED



# CATS



**\$20 Down, 0% Financing, 0 Payments!**

**Cats over 4 lbs only. For a limited time only. Other fees may apply.**

## Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month

June is Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month! Around this time each year, we begin to get more and more cats. To help encourage adoptions this month, we will be having many exciting promotions to celebrate Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month!

The Shelter will have many Certified Pre-Owned Cats up for adoption, all over 4lbs. These Cats come in all makes and models. With a one time \$20 fee, 0% Financing, and 0 Payments, you can take home one of these beauties. All come standard with a CatFax Cat History Report,

microchipping, spay/neuter, vaccinations, 4lb bag of Science Diet, Feeders Supply coupon book and a cardboard pet carrier for travel! Adoptions will also come with a chance to win one of the weekly drawings for a gift basket in honor of Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month! To ensure a safe trip home, adopters will also receive a \$5 Gas Card!

Now is the perfect time to adopt! The best hope for cats is if we all work together to save lives, through adoptions and spaying or neutering.

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# Landing on Your Feet



Cats make it look so easy: leaping or falling from some high shelf or piece of furniture only to land gracefully on all four feet.

But there's some complicated feline effort that goes into falling with such style.

Cats have a highly-tuned sense of balance and have very flexible

backbones (because they have more vertebrae than humans), which allows them to twist their bodies around to right themselves when they fall—an innate ability known as their "righting reflex."

When a cat jumps or falls from a high place, it uses either its sight or its vestibular apparatus (a balance system located in the inner ear) to determine up from down, and then rotates its upper body to face downward. Its lower body follows suit.

Even kittens can fall without fear, as most learn to master the skill by the time they're just 7 weeks old.

Cats are also

helped in falls by their small bodies, light bone structure and thick fur, which decrease their terminal velocity, thus softening the impact. Some cats will also "flatten" out their bodies, in parachute fashion, to create more resistance to air to make them fall more slowly.

If you have a cat, be careful about opening windows though, as a bird or squirrel can easily distract a cat enough to cause them to lose their balance—cats can still be injured in a fall, even if they do land on their feet. Shorter falls, from one or two stories, can be riskier than higher falls because the cat may not have time to right themselves.

## Cat to Cat Introductions

Some cats are more social than others. For example, an older cat used to being alone, may have a harder time adjusting to a new companion that a kitten that has just been separated from mother. Cats take time to adjust and may need to be introduced slowly so they can get used to each other before face to face confrontation. Slow introductions help prevent fearful and aggressive problems from developing. Here are some guidelines to help make introductions go smoothly.

### **Confinement:**

Confine your new cat to a medium-sized room with a litter box, food, and water. Feed the resident cat and the new cat on each side of the door to this room, so that they associate something enjoyable (eating!) with each other's smell. Gradually move the dishes closer to the door until your pets can calmly eat while standing directly on either side of the door.

### **The Old Switcheroo:**

Swap sleeping

blankets or beds used by all the cats so they have a chance to become accustomed to the other cats' scents. You can also rub a towel over the cats and place it under the food bowl of the other animal. Once the new cat seems more comfortable in the confined area, switch the cats. Placing the new cat in the rest of the house, while the other is more confined allows the new cat to explore easier without being bothered by the resident cats. After returning the animals to their original areas, allow them to see one another. You can do this by placing a door stop on both sides of the door, allowing the cats only to see each other. Repeat these steps over several days, supervised of course.

### **Slow and Steady Wins the Race:**

Have patience. It is not uncommon for animals to confuse play signals with

aggression signals when they are first introduced. If the animals are showing aggressive signals, separate them and try again later after they have calmed down.

### **Precautionary Measures:**

Make sure your resident animals are current on vaccines. You should also make sure there are safe hiding spots available for cats that may be more timid. If spats occur, which could be likely, remember to not intervene directly. Doing so could cause you to get injured. You can make a loud noise, toss a pillow, or use a squirt gun to distract them and get them separated.

Cats becoming completely comfortable with one another could be instantly or take a few months even. Just be patient and use these techniques to make the transition easier on owner and animals.



# The History of Felines

People are divided into two categories when it comes to cats. They either love them or they hate them. Keeping cats as pets has been around since ancient times. They have even been worshiped and feared. Sometimes people have gone as far as to think that cats are evil and affiliated with the devil. But, anyone who has ever loved cats knows, they can be life savers, or at least a loving companion.

Cats have been around for millions of years. There have been fossils of cats found back to the Pliocene age. This is approximately twelve to two and one-half million years ago. These ancient cats show many similarities to our modern day pets. It is thought that people in ancient Africa used cats to help keep pests out of their fields and silos. The farmers were grateful as they could find no easier solution to this problem.

Around 3,000 B.C., tamed cats were still used for pest control in ancient Egypt. There is a good chance



this is how they became household companions and beloved pets. It is probably how they also came to be worshiped as gods. The Egyptians associated cats with the goddess Bast and mummified them to be buried in the goddess' temple. Cats were also domesticated in the Far East, but it is thought the date for that area was around 2,000 B.C.

Domesticated cats were taken from Egypt to Italy. Then these wonderful companions slowly gained popularity through Europe. Unfortunately for cats, though, by the Middle Ages, attitudes

towards them changed drastically. The connection between cats and pagan religions was frowned upon greatly by the Christian church. They even went so far as to burn cats alive because they believed them to be associated with the devil. But, by the eighteenth century, most people had come to their senses and again realized the value of the wonderful cat. Since then, they have become popular as household pets again.

Cats can be wonderful pets. They are good companions to people of all ages. They do, however, have a mind of their own. They are not at the beck and call of their humans. Cats are wonderful survivors. They can adapt to almost any environment and adjust quite easily to change. But, they will show you as much, or more, love as you show them. And, they, like most animals, love unconditionally. Only the lucky ones among us lowly humans have gotten to experience this love first hand.

## Catnip - How does it work!

"Catnip" is the common name for a perennial herb of the mint family. It is native to Europe and is an import to the United States and other countries. The catnip plant is now a widespread weed in North America.

Given to the right cat, catnip can cause an amazing reaction! The cat will rub it, roll over it, kick at it, and generally go nuts for several minutes. Then the cat will lose interest and walk away. Two hours later, the cat may come back and have exactly the same response.

Because there really isn't any scent that causes this sort of reaction in

humans, catnip is hard for us to understand. However, it is not an uncommon behavior in animals that rely heavily on their noses. For example, there are many scents that will trigger intense hunting behavior in dogs, and other scents will cause dogs to stop in their tracks and roll all over the scent.

Although no one knows exactly what happens in the cat's brain, it is known that the chemical nepetalactone in catnip is the thing that triggers the response. Apparently, it

somehow kicks off a stereotypical pattern in cats that are sensitive to the chemical. The catnip reaction is inherited, and some cats are totally unaffected by it. Large cats like tigers can be sensitive to it as well.

The reaction to catnip only lasts a few minutes. Then the cat acclimates to it, and it can take an hour or two away from catnip for the cat to "reset." Then, the same reaction can occur again. Very young kittens and older cats seem less likely to have a reaction to catnip.





# Need your Pet Spayed or Neutered? We can help!

Once a month, The S.N.I.P. Clinic and the NAFC Animal Shelter assist in getting your pets altered for a discounted price. Call or visit the Shelter for more information or to sign your animals up!

## Happy Tails: Chubby & Monkey

Monkey and Chubby came together and left together. Their new family decided to adopt after the loss of their cat. After looking around at different area shelters, the new family fell in love with these two handsome fellows.

Once arriving at their new home, they become very comfortable with the new family, including the dog. Their distinctive personalities began to show. Monkey is very inquisitive and Chubby, on the otherhand, is more sedate.

Monkey has also become good friends with the families new dog, Sweet Pea, who was also adopted from the shelter. The two can be found wrestling and playing. When Monkey is worn out, Chubby is his cuddle buddy.

The family is so happy with all of their new shelter additions.

Check in future issues for another happy tail from these loyal adopters! We need more adoption stories! Please email us pictures and your family's happy tail!



Chubby



Monkey



### NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00-5:00PM

Saturday

11:00-2:30

Adoption Prices:

Cats over 4lbs - \$20

Cats under 4lbs - \$60

Dogs - \$80

## Information Corner

A Special Thanks!

To Bridges and Sunset Liquors for saving cardboard flats for our cats to use as litterboxes!

To the Floyd County Animal Rescue League for their continued support and programs like the Feline Fix!

To Feeders Supply for helping showcase our adoptable cats!

To our Veterinarians for spaying and neutering our animals prior to adoption!

To all of the staff, for their dedication and love for the animals.

To the volunteers that help maintain and assist in the care of the animals!

To all of those who support us in our efforts!