



*This newsletter is dedicated to the loving memory of Ron Giese. Advocates 4 Animals would like to thank the Giese family & friends for the generous donations made in loving memory of Ron. Ron was always a friend to the animals. His legacy of love has continued through the many contributions made to Advocates 4 Animals on his behalf. The animals will be forever grateful for his love.*



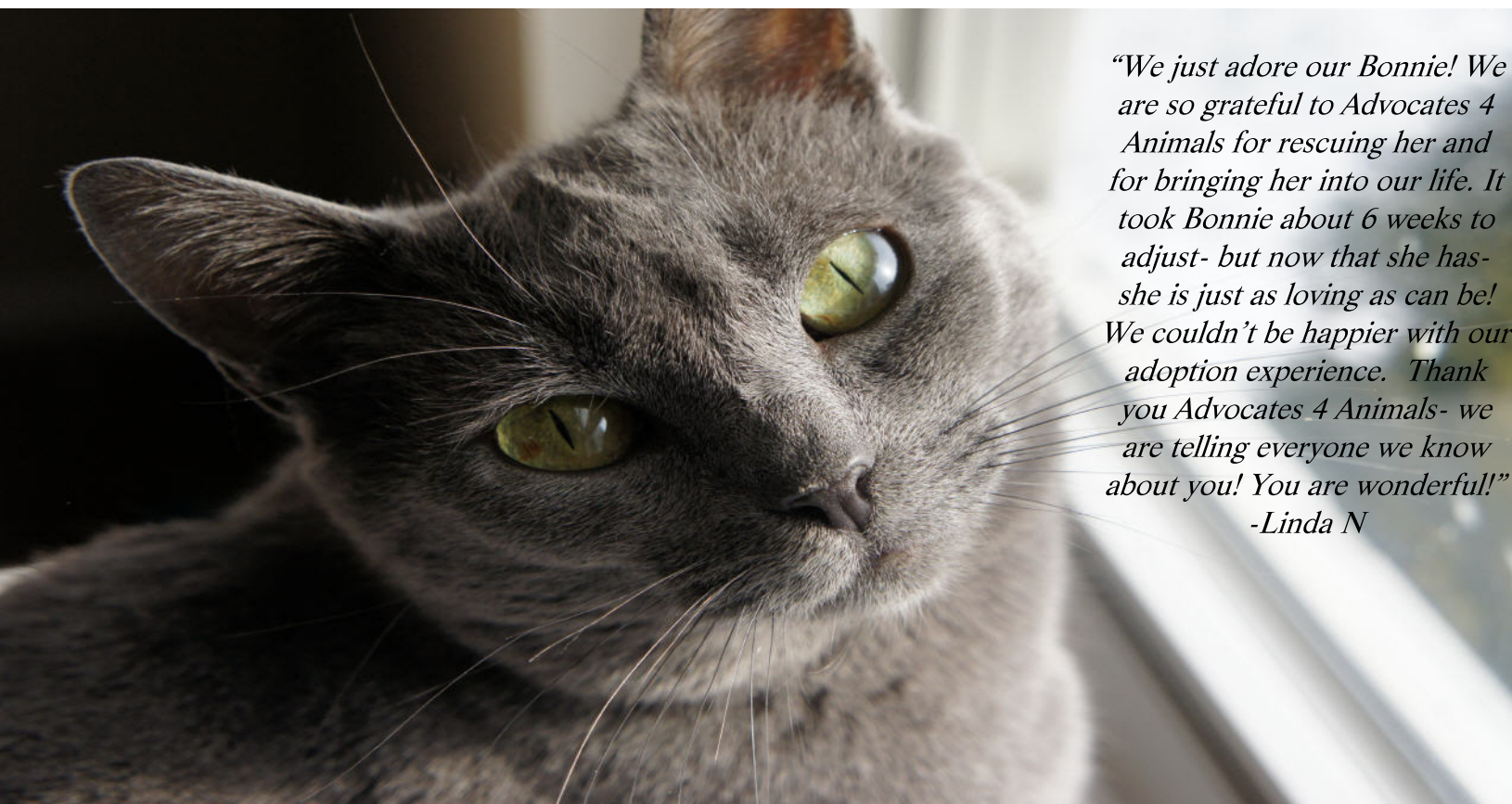
# Advocates 4 Animals

## Feline Rescue & Rehabilitation

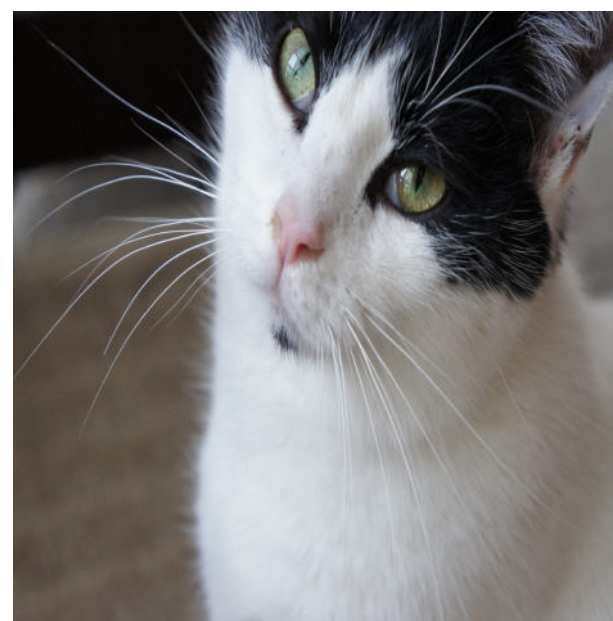
### Saving One Life At A Time...

Writer/Editor: Stacey Ritz, M.Ed.- CWA Professional Member, DWAA & She Writes member

Spring 2011



*"We just adore our Bonnie! We are so grateful to Advocates 4 Animals for rescuing her and for bringing her into our life. It took Bonnie about 6 weeks to adjust- but now that she has- she is just as loving as can be! We couldn't be happier with our adoption experience. Thank you Advocates 4 Animals- we are telling everyone we know about you! You are wonderful!"*  
-Linda N



We're entering 2011 working hard to promote the importance of spay/neuter, educate on responsible pet ownership and rescuing/placing rescue pets into volunteer foster homes in our rescue as space/funds allow. In 2010 we rescued/adopted nearly 300 pets. We have no doubt that 2011 will be another successful year- in terms of helping the pets who need us most. We could not continue our efforts without your continued support. Thank you so much for your kindness towards all animals and for your donations to our rescue efforts. It takes a team effort to save lives- and we appreciate your part in our team!

[www.Advocates4Animals.com](http://www.Advocates4Animals.com)

# You Just Never Know...

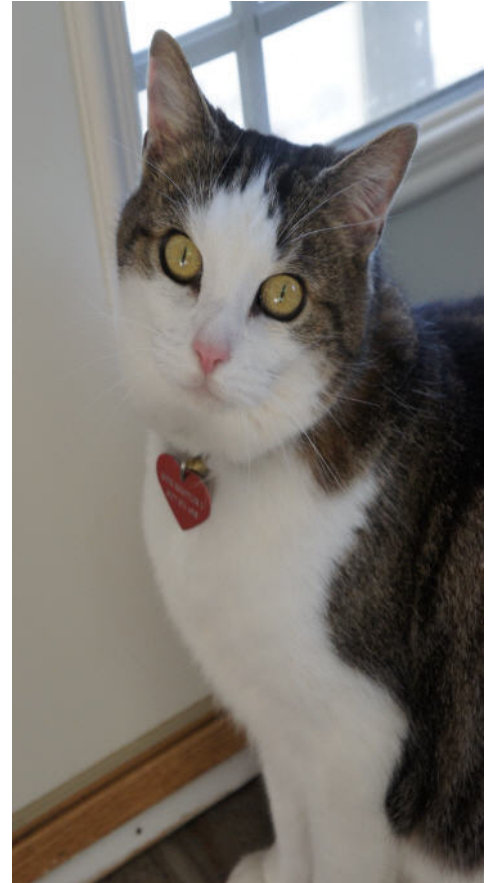
One day you're in a cozy home, the next you're on the cold street, alone, starving and scared. You don't know where to turn, who might hurt you- and what are those big loud things zooming by? You've been an indoor kitty all your life and now you're faced with dodging cars, running from cruel humans and dodging bullets...yep, bullets.

Advocates 4 Animals rescues felines from all walks of life...from strays who once had homes, whose owners decided not to commit to them, to felines listed on the euthanasia list at high-kill shelters. We find pets locked in abandoned foreclosed homes, taped up in boxes and thrown on the side of the road, and those who have suffered unimaginably by human hands. Nearly everyday people ask us, "how do you do it?" And our answer to the question remains the same. We are saving one life at a time. Every life matters. And despite all the tough situations we see, we focus on the positive. The positives of the wonderful adoptions and the fabulous families and individuals who welcome rescue pets into their home to be a part of their family, the positives of witnessing a

rescue feline who has been through an awful past, begin and continue to be rehabilitated- not only physically through great vet care and good nutrition, but also emotionally/socially- through their amazing ability to learn to trust again, and to learn to open their hearts to others. The resilience of animals will never cease to amaze us.

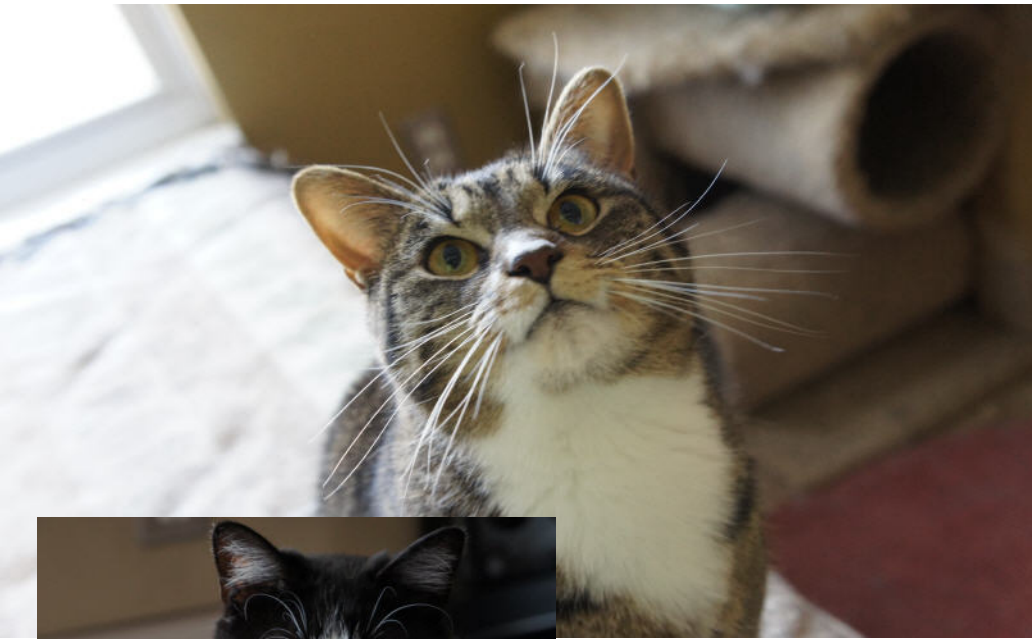
We've been asked more than once, why do we continue to rescue when there are so many millions of others that we can't help...and to that, we answer- because every life matters. Every life is important. We do everything we can to help as many as we can. In operating a 501c3 rescue organization, you never know what each day holds. But we do know that we put in our best efforts, every single day. Some may say that saving one life may not make a difference, but we can tell you with certainty that saving that one life makes a huge difference in the life of that pet.

You just never know what each day holds, and if you believe in the golden rule, as we do (treat others as you wish to be treated), you feel as we do- that every life *does* matter. Every life is precious and worth saving.



*PICTURED ABOVE:* KIEFER, adoptable indoor/outdoor adult feline, searching for a furr-ever home.





PICTURED LEFT (TOP): Vera is a sweet and funny feline! She is ready for adoption. She loves to play and to snuggle- she would do best in a calm, laid back home.



PICTURED LEFT (small photo); Chloe LOVES everyone- other cats, people and ESPECIALLY dogs! She would love to be adopted to a home that has at least 1 dog who she can befriend and play with. She is very sweet and loves attention!



PICTURED LEFT, CENTER: Jasmine & Fiona may look like siblings- but really they're not! Funny as it may seem- they are being fostered in the same volunteer foster home and they became the best of friends. They LOVE attention from people, love to snuggle with people and with each other and they do well with other cats and with dogs too. They are a great pair and their searching for a loving home together!

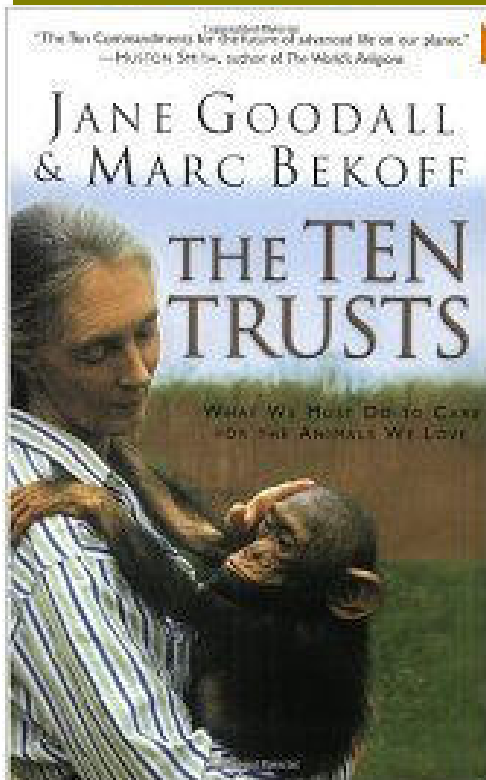


PICTURED FAR RIGHT (small photo): We just love this photo and we had to share it with you! 5 foster/adoptable felines at one of our volunteer foster homes...they're all patiently waiting to be adopted!



PICTURED LEFT: Mrs. Whiskers is just as sweet as you'll ever find! Her favorite activities are: snuggling, being petted, sitting in the window....oh, and did I mention snuggling? Mrs. Whiskers is available for adoption and waiting to find a furr-ever home!

# Looking for a good READ?



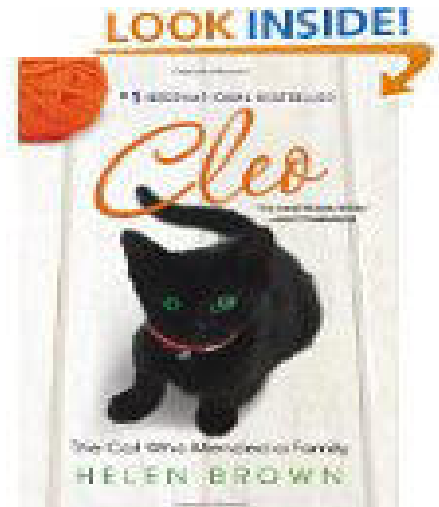
Our volunteers and supporters have 2 terrific books that we would like to recommend to you! If you love cats- and all animals- you can't miss either of these books!

## Book 1:

THE TEN TRUSTS: WHAT WE MUST DO TO CARE FOR THE ANIMALS WE LOVE (Jane Goodall & Marc Bekoff)

## Book 2:

CLEO: THE CAT WHO MENDED A FAMILY (Helen Brown)



## Fun, Easy Ways You Can Help *Advocates 4 Animals:*

1. Join our Facebook FAN page and encourage *your* friends to join too!

<http://www.facebook.com/Advocates4Animals>

2. Join our Facebook CAUSE page and encourage *your* friends to join us too!

<http://www.causes.com/causes/582022-support-advocates-4-animals-rescue>

3. Do you have a talent? Can you sew blankets or pet beds? If you would like to make a product and donate it to A4A Rescue to use for our upcoming fundraiser events- please contact us and let us know!

4. Place a donation jar at a local business- to collect donations for A4A Rescue. We are a 501c3 non-profit, no-kill, all-volunteer group. 100% of all donations go directly to the animals.

5. Looking for additional ideas? Visit us here to read more:

<http://www.advocates4animals.com/about8.html>

# Have you JOINED us?

# facebook

We just launched our new FB page and we would love for you to join us- and tell your friends to do the same!

Our FB FAN PAGE LINK:

<http://www.facebook.com/Advocates4Animals>

Our FB CAUSE PAGE LINK:

<http://www.causes.com/causes/582022-support-advocates-4-animals-rescue>



MONDO- in January. Rescued from a high-volume shelter with severe facial and paw burns.

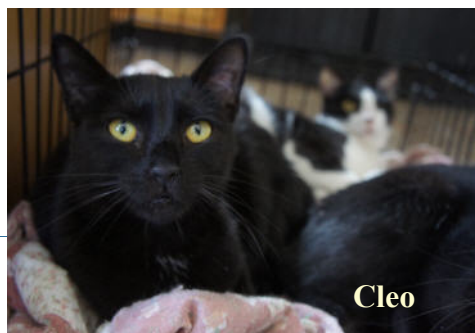


MONDO- in mid-February--recovering in his foster home. Mondo is recovering both physically with vet care and good nutrition and emotionally/socially with daily positive reinforcement and work by his foster family. He's doing fantastic!

## Glass or Plastic?

Do you use stainless or glass bowls for your pets or do you use plastic? If you're using plastic, you may want to consider switching. Research shows that bacteria can quickly accumulate in plastic bowls, even after washing them in hot water. For this reason, plastic bowls can also cause and/or contribute to feline acne (it looks like small black gritty

material, usually appearing under the cats mouth, on the chin area). A quick, inexpensive and easy fix is to switch your pets bowls (water bowls and feeding bowls) to glass or stainless- and be sure to wash them on a regular basis.



MISS AMERICA: Yep, that's my name! The good people at A4A Rescue gave me this name because when I was rescued, I was in tough shape. I had been a stray and gosh, I had been through A LOT! I looked pretty rough at that time, and I guess the volunteers wanted me to know that I really was beautiful....and now that I'm healthy and ready for adoption- I'm starting to believe them! I saw my reflection in the window yesterday- and I have to say, I look pretty beautiful!

# Country Laundromutt Grooming

Location: 117 W. Main St. Xenia

Contact: 937-620-5589



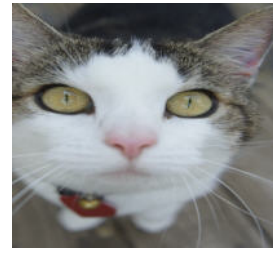
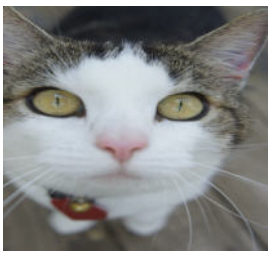
Many feline owners also have a canine family member or two, and on occasion, Advocates 4 Animals is able to foster/adopt a puppy/dog...therefore we wanted to be sure to let everyone know about our favorite place for grooming...The Country Laundromutt Grooming shop- located on Main Street in Xenia. Contact information is located above.

We love the Country Laundromutt Grooming shop! Many Advocates 4 Animals volunteers take their own canines here for regular grooming...and we take all of our rescue/foster pups here for a fantastic "spa treatment" prior to being placed up for adoption. Be sure to give them a call next time your canine family member(s) is ready to be groomed!



## A Rescue Tail...

Eve Bunting is named after the children's author and she know's that she not only has a great name- but she's a lucky feline! Eve Bunting was a very young mother of 1 surviving kitten- and they were behind bars together at a high-kill shelter. A4A was able to save them both just in time (phew!) and now Eve Bunting is ready for adoption. She is a dilute calico and the friendliest cat you'll ever meet. She is incredibly sweet and gentle, she loves to lay on her back with her paws curled up on her chest as she soaks up the sun filtering in the windows of her foster home. She loves to play wit h the laser light and with string toys. She loves to snuggle up with you and loves to be petted. She gets along well with everyone who is kind. Another success story- and now, Eve Bunting awaits her time to be adopted into a loving, committed home to call her very own...



## The Superpower of Purrs & Whiskers

I drove slowly down the busy narrow street, looking back and forth from the passing house address numbers to my small crumpled scrap of paper. *The house should be on the right side...* I told myself, glancing one last time at my directions. My eyes narrowed as I searched for a roadside parking space.

Rita meowed softly from her pet carrier. *We made it Miss Rita.* I whispered to her as I glanced up to check the house address one last time. *Well, look at that Rita!*

Rita's adopters had taken a thick magic marker and created a cardboard sign that had been neatly placed at the center of the front entry door.

### WELCOME HOME RITA. WE LOVE YOU!

I gulped, looking at Rita's large green eyes one last time before hopping out of the car. *We've found you a perfect forever home Rita. You are going to love it here girl.* Taking a deep breath I stepped out of the car and walked around to the passenger side to retrieve Rita (resting safely inside of her pet carrier), her starter sample of food and litter and her adoption file. Before I could turn around, I heard the squeak of the front door and the sound of a meek voice directed my way.

"I'm just so excited!" The woman's voice exclaimed as she neared the car.

I turned to face Rita's adopter with a warm smile. "Oh, Rita is so excited too. She has been patiently waiting to find a forever home with a loving person like yourself. This is just wonderful!" I pushed the car door shut and walked side by side with the woman towards her home; with Rita in hand, I noticed the woman wipe her eye and I quickly looked in the opposite direction. Over the years I have come to learn that adoptions are incredibly special days. The adopted pet is highly anticipated upon their arrival. When adopting a new pet, families are welcoming a new member into their households and their families. In addition, adopters are becoming an active part of the rescue process, as the adopters are fulfilling the pets lifelong dream of having a loving, safe home to call their very own.

"I have Rita's litter-box in the laundry room, do you think that will be okay? What are her favorite toys? What are your suggestions for making her comfortable in my home? Oh, I'm just so excited, I can't even tell you!" Her voice was soft and kind; her smile warm and inviting. Knowing Rita well from fostering her in my personal home, I had no doubt Rita was going to love it here.

Rita and her six kittens had fallen victims of a poor economy due to no fault of their own. When Rita's people foreclosed on their home, she and her newborn kittens were suddenly left outdoors in the bitter cold snow, ice and strong blasts of wind that come with Ohio Winters. Thankfully a caring neighbor contacted Advocates 4 Animals Rescue asking for help. Rita's six kittens had long since been adopted into homes of their own and now it was Rita's turn to find her *just right* forever home.

Rita's adoption is just one of thousands which have taken place through Advocates 4 Animals Rescue of Xenia, OH. After a pre-screening adoption application and speaking with the potential adopters, co-founders then drive the adoptable cat *to* the adopters home to meet with the families one-on-one and to answer any questions face-to-face, as well as to be certain that it is the best home environment for the adoptable cat (and that the cat is the right fit for the humans). All pets are spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccinations, tested, well socialized and friendly, litter-box trained, treated for the prevention of ear mites, fleas and worms and have been given a clean bill of health by our veterinarian. In addition, cats have been fostered in individual, loving volunteer homes prior to adoption, therefore their personalities and likes and dislikes are well known prior to adoption day.

When adopting pets into loving homes 365 days a year, it can be easy to forget the true joy and elation of cat adoption. The excitement, the anticipation, the *getting to know each other* phase, and the photos of your adopted cats first day in their new home... But when you see the cardboard signs hanging on front doors, the colorful balloons in the corner of the room, the tears of joy in the adopters eyes- it is impossible to forget the joy of adoption. And it is all that more important to let the adopters know what a wonderful thing they are doing by saving a life.

Through nearly eight years of feline rescue, rehabilitation and adoption I have witnessed individuals who have been lonely and severely depressed, transform those feelings into pure happiness, joy and pride because of cat adoption. I have experienced special needs children and adults gaining lifelong companions and the unbreakable bonds of friendship become realized through feline adoption. And I have been fortunate enough to be embraced by the arms of thousands of once lonely senior citizens, who transform their lives from living alone, to sharing their homes with a rescued feline, only to find that the benefits to the human are as significant, if not more, than those to the feline. Senior citizens gain an increase in confidence, self-esteem, emotional well-being and happiness. The letters and e-mails that pour in to Advocates 4 Animals on a weekly basis contain words that will forever touch my heart. They are words of truth, words of love and proof of a happier life for all. The joy of feline companionship has warmed the hearts of thousands of individuals and families over the years and I have no doubt the amazing rescue felines will continue to work their magic with countless more individuals as time marches on. Felines may not be scientifically proven to *heal all wounds* but I can assure you from my personal experience in animal rescue, that felines do warm the hearts of those who welcome them into their homes and of those who embrace the companionship that felines offer with their soft purrs, twitching tails and loving eyes. When you sit down to read a book and your furry feline plops down on the first page you open and looks up at you with her loving eyes, as if to say *Hey you...I'm here!* How can a smile not come to your face? When you're not feeling well and you're laying on the couch flipping through television channel after channel, starring blankly ahead and your cat suddenly jumps up, curls into a ball next to your side and begins to purr- the comfort that is received can simply not be calculated.

There may be no measurable proof that cats can *cure all things*, but to those of us who are lucky enough to share our lives and our homes with a rescue cat, we never question our cats amazing capacity to trust and love. We cat people know, without a doubt, that cats calm us, they warm our hearts and they lift our souls. I can't imagine a better superpower to possess, that that of being loved by a rescue cat.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends, family and co-workers. By forwarding the Advocates 4 Animals Newsletter- you can help thousands more homeless/abused/neglected and euthanasia listed felines be rescued, rehabilitated and ultimately placed in a furr-ever home!

Thank you for your support!

[www.Advocates4Animals.com](http://www.Advocates4Animals.com)



*Pictured above:* Trixy (black feline) and Neko (4 week old boxer mix puppy) try to figure each other out. Neko wonders why he is smaller than a cat!? Don't worry Neko-- we've received updates from your adopted family and we've heard that you are growing rapidly!

**NOTE:** Trixy is still available for adoption, please visit our website to view photos, videos and a full description.  
[www.Advocates4Animals.com](http://www.Advocates4Animals.com)