

# Advocacy & Rescue

FOREVER HOME

## Amazing Journey

An abused stray named Mondo finds happiness.

ARTICLE AND PHOTO  
BY STACEY RITZ

MONDO HAD BEEN SEVERELY BEATEN, abused and burned while trying to survive as a stray in rural Kentucky. Taken to the local shelter by a concerned citizen, Mondo was suffering and in need of urgent medical care which the shelter's funding could not provide. Ohio-based rescue group Advocates 4 Animals Inc., a 501(c)3 all-volunteer organization, learned of Mondo's story just in time and quickly took action.

The fur on Mondo's face was gone, his sensitive skin left red and blistered. His paw pads were thin and tattooed from the burns. Upon his arrival to Advocates 4 Animals, Mondo not only received top-notch veterinary care from the organization's veterinarian, Dr. Anna Wiebe, but he also had his own bedroom in a volunteer foster home. Mondo received much needed love, compassion and emotional rehabilitation.

"Mondo was in bad shape when he arrived at A4A," says Amy Beatty, Advocates 4 Animals co-founder. "We just wanted to hold him and let him know everything would be OK. He was terrified. He hid in the corner of the room and trembled. It was so sad."

Volunteers worked day and night, showing Mondo that there are good people in the world and helping him learn to trust in humans again. "We knew without a doubt that Mondo could learn to trust and love again,"

Beatty says. "Honestly, we thought his rehabilitation process would take upwards of a year. After just four short months with us, Mondo was purring, sitting on our laps, begging to be held, wanting to snuggle, playing with toys,

getting along with other cats and dogs, and greeting every visitor who entered the door. It was simply amazing!"

Wiebe also played an important role in Mondo's recovery, prescribing proper antibiotics to help heal his severe burn

wounds and allowing time and good nutrition to play a role in his miracle recovery. In the four months that it took for Mondo to make a full recovery emotionally and socially, he also did so physically. His paw pads filled back in, and every piece of facial hair returned, to everyone's amazement. Mondo's hair shone, his eyes glistened, and he held his tail high.

**Mondo made a full recovery from his injuries.**

Shortly after Mondo's recovery, he was neutered and adopted through Advocates 4 Animals by Rita Boyde of Huber Heights, Ohio. Boyde was amazed at all that Mondo had endured, and she was inspired by his story of recovery. She says that Mondo is a terrific addition to their happy home. "He loves to play a lot," she says. "And he loves to sit at the window and watch the bird feeders, too."

Mondo's journey is one of courage, trust and love, and shows the importance of compassion toward all living beings. While Mondo's life began with heartache, it is a true journey of success, marked by several amazing individuals demonstrating the power that lies within each of us: the power to make miracles happen. 🐾



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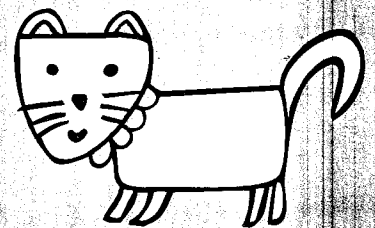
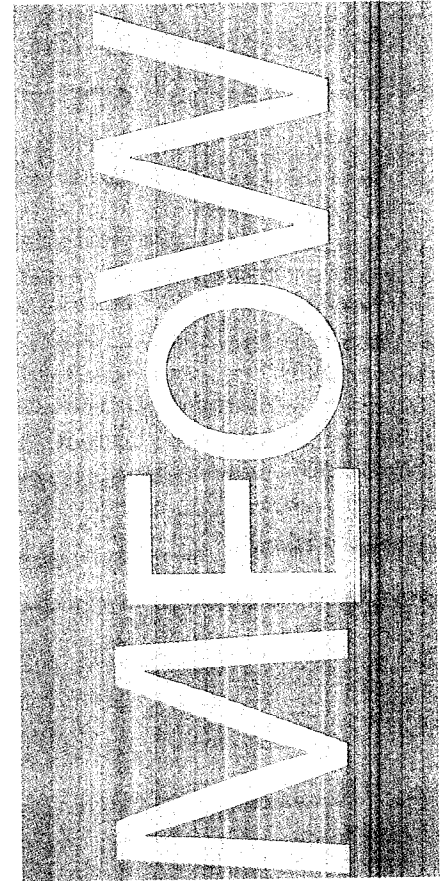
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[www.advocates4animals.com](http://www.advocates4animals.com).

Stacey Ritz, M.Ed., is a freelance writer, the executive director of Advocates 4 Animals and is a professional member of the Cat Writers' Association.

FreeKibble.com, a website dedicated to providing nutritious food to shelter animals, will donate 5,000 meals of Halo's Spot's Stew to the rescue organization of Rita Boyde's choice.



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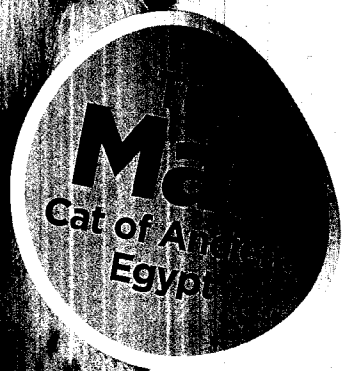
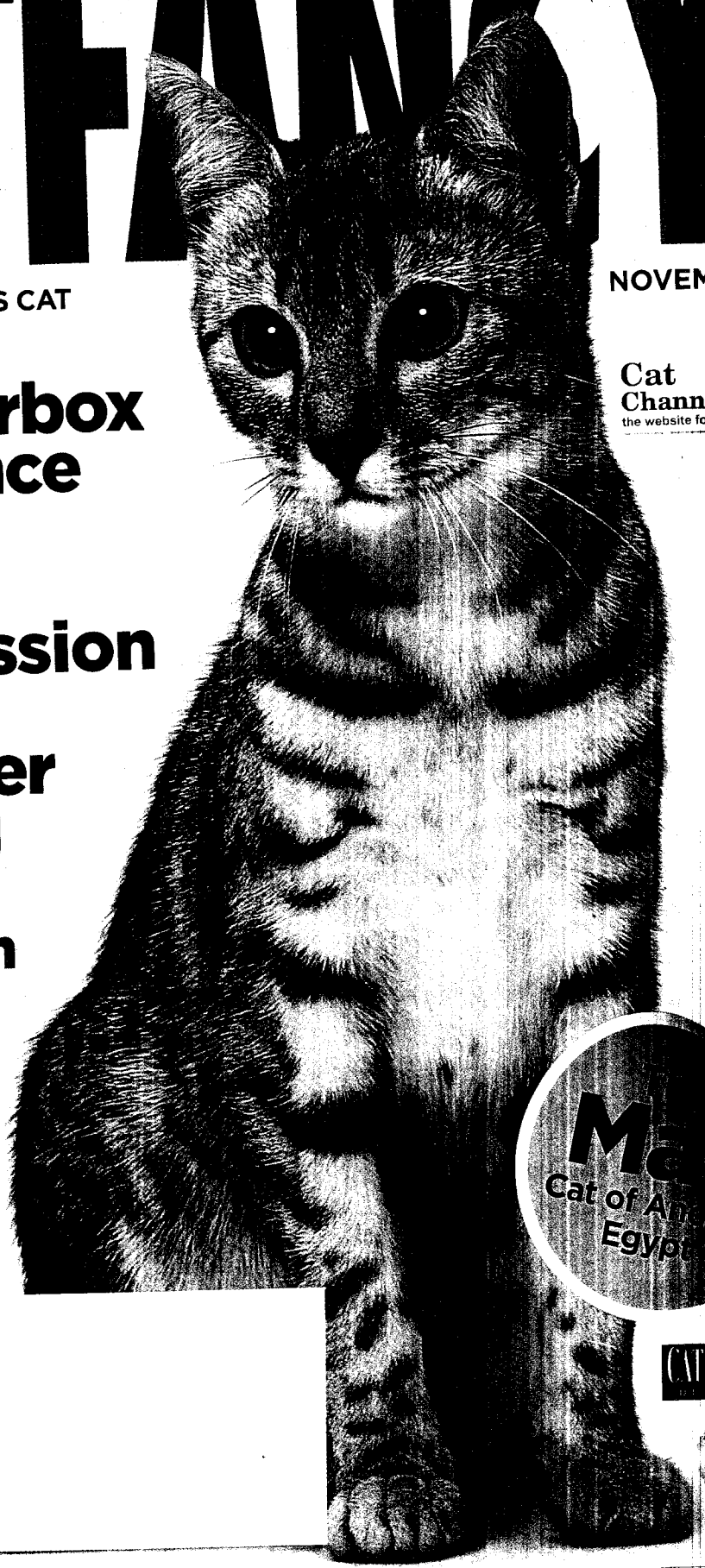
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