



Cat Tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOMELESS CAT NETWORK

HOLIDAY 2023



Rescued!

Thanks to your support, Homeless Cat Network continues to rescue community cats from an uncertain life on the streets. Read on to learn some of their stories!

When HCN volunteers rescued Rita to have her spayed, local residents said her kittens were older and had all been given away. But Rita was clearly lactating, so volunteers went back the next day to try to find the kittens.

The following day, her newest litter of six kittens was found nearby.

The five-week-old babies were happily reunited with their mother and glad to be off the streets.



Rita

Soon after, Rita developed a severe abscess on the side of her face that required treatment. The kittens took turns grooming her healing cheek — adorable!

It is incredibly satisfying to have rescued this young family and to watch them thrive in foster care.

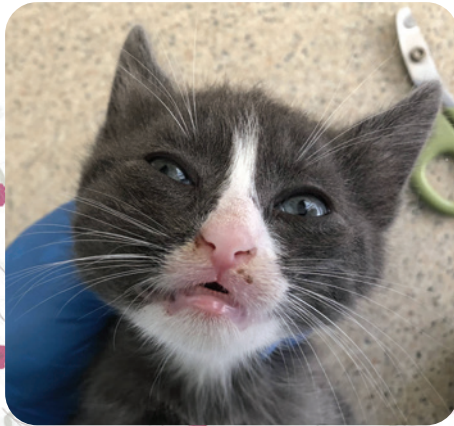


Tovis



A local resident whom HCN was helping with TNR reached out when they noticed a kitten with a severe eye condition.

Once trapped, the kitten's eye was found to have an embedded foxtail. After the foxtail was removed, Tovis recovered quickly and has turned into a cuddly and beautiful kitten!



The night before Elf and his littermates were rescued from a local trailer park, a skunk grabbed Elf and tried to carry him away. Alert residents heard Elf screaming and chased off the skunk, who thankfully dropped the kitten.

Elf came to us with a swollen head. To our relief, he recovered quickly and thrived in foster care.



Elf



Spicy's Zest for Life

By Jess Miller

Her name is Spicy, and she definitely has a zest for life!

Spicy is about 18 months old, which is on the younger end of the Socialization Center age range. She still has kitten energy. She races around the open kitty room, batting balls, chasing lasers. She is happy and loves to have fun!

Spicy is very affectionate. She likes to be petted. When she was in foster care she was a real snuggle-bunny.

Spicy gets along well with other kitties, too. When she was fostered she lived amiably with two resident cats, one a senior.

Spicy is a very curious girl and has become entranced by the kittens housed in Kitten Kamp, which is just a glass wall away. It has gotten to the point where the little kitties and Spicy come right up to the glass to interact with each other. It is very sweet to watch.

Center volunteers have a friendly debate going on about what to call Spicy's distinctive coloring. Is she a Dilute Calico? A Dilute Tortoiseshell? Whatever the color, she has the cutest pink nose!



Spicy is happy, playful, and affectionate, and very inquisitive!

Spicy's life wasn't always this fun. She was found on the streets near where HCN volunteers feed spayed and neutered kitties in a managed colony. The feeders won her trust, as did her foster parent.

Now Spicy is ready to be adopted. She could be an only cat or live comfortably with other kitties, and maybe even a dog!

If you'd like to meet Spicy, please email Homeless Cat Network at info@homelesscatnetwork.com. She is waiting for you!

HCN is proud that our Socialization Center can give adult kitties all the time they need to become adoptable and find their forever homes. Please support our lifesaving work by making a donation today!

Donate

As an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit rescue organization, our work is supported entirely by donations from caring people like you.

- \$50 pays for basic medications.
- \$100 subsidizes vaccinations and spay/neuter.
- \$250 feeds kitties in colonies and at our shelter.
- \$500 funds veterinary care for rescued cats.

Go to homelesscatnetwork.com/donations.html.

Tax ID: 94-3177950

amazon Wish List:

On Amazon.com, go to Account & Lists > Find a List or Registry, and search for Homeless Cat Network.
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/JDEK11R6UHX6>

Volunteer

- **Fostering:** Open your home to a cat or kittens.
- **Professional help:** Vet/vet tech, PR/marketing, CPA, attorney—anyone with special talents!
- **Rescue:** We'll teach you how to humanely trap community cats.
- **Colony feeder:** Bring food and water to a colony of fixed community cats.
- **Cat socializer:** Care for rescued cats at our shelter.
- **Social Media:** Help us communicate HCN's mission and promote adoptable cats.

Your Kindness Helps!



Recycle Bottles and Cans for the Cats!

HCN volunteer Judy H. collects CRV aluminum cans and plastic bottles and cashes them in for the cats. You can help! Collect your empty plastic bottles and aluminum cans (no glass please) with the CRV or Ca Cash labels and schedule a drop-off by contacting judyh@homelesscatnetwork.com or (650) 508-9013 x5.



Smarty Cat: Avoiding Holiday Hazards

Enlightening info and advice so we can all be better cat people

The holidays are fun, festive – and potentially hazardous for cats in many ways. Keep your kitty safe with these tips.



Perilous Plants

All lily plants are toxic to cats (and dogs). Amaryllis bulbs in particular are often given as holiday gifts. Please discard any lily plants immediately, or pass them along to a friend without pets.

The Poinsettia's milky sap could irritate your cat's skin or stomach. Discard any you receive, or pass them along to a friend.

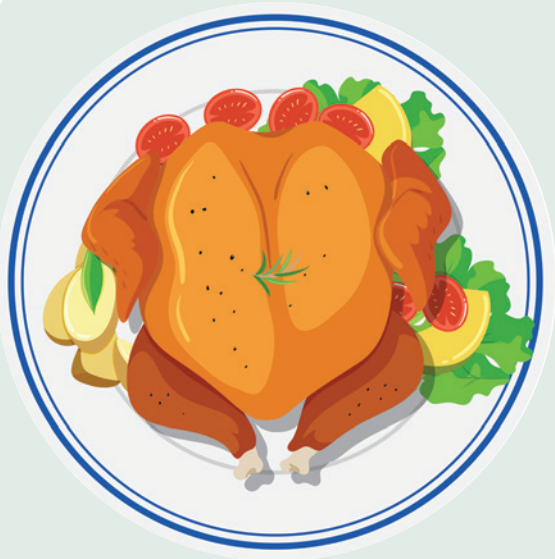
Evergreen wreaths and trees: We could do a whole story just on Christmas trees and wreaths! Please keep these risks in mind:

- **The sap** from pines and firs is toxic to cats.
- **Evergreen needles** could cause irritation – or worse, an internal tear.
- **The water in the tree stand** could have sap, fertilizer, or plant preservatives – all toxic to pets. Use netting, a cone, or a tightly wrapped swag to block access.

Decorations & lighting

Electric lights, glass ornaments, and lit candles are all very dangerous for kitties. **But be especially cautious about tinsel.** Cats tend to swallow these whole, possibly resulting in a linear foreign body – when one end of the tinsel gets stuck in the stomach, and the rest gets stuck in the intestines. This can result in the need for **major emergency surgery.**

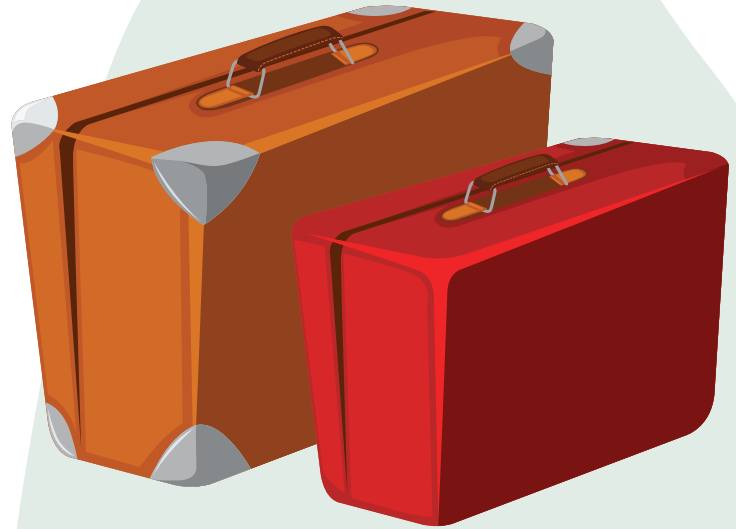
Hang decorations and lighting where kitty can't reach them: along the tops of windows/doors, or on upper branches. Try winding lights around the upper trunk of the tree, as lights dangling on outer branches can be tempting.



Holiday Foods

Richer holiday foods can cause stomach upset, diarrhea, pancreatitis or worse — especially if there's onion or another toxic ingredient in the dish.

A little plain, unseasoned roast meat won't hurt, but no bones or gravy; no side dishes or desserts. Keep platters and pans of food covered unless you can supervise.



Guests

Even sociable cats might be overwhelmed with visitors. It helps to create a quiet retreat for your cat, with convenient access to food, water, and litter.

Make sure guests understand how to respect cats' space — and keep front and back doors closed so your cat does not get outside.



Gift Wrap

Empty boxes and scrunched-up paper are great sources of kitty entertainment all year 'round. At the holidays, it's important to separate out the dangerous parts: Ribbons and string; hooks and wires; adhesive tape; and artificial flowers or sprigs.



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Our Kitties Need More Food in the Winter!



During the winter, community cats need more food to keep warm and stay healthy. Please donate, or you can send food through our Amazon Wish List (see page 5). If you would prefer to buy food and drop off (we love the large bags of Costco Kirkland Maintenance dry cat food!), please email info@homelesscatnetwork.com to coordinate. Thank you!