

# Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

## WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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### Kris Field Participates in Another Cat Seizure with Humane Society of the United States

In August 2010, Kris was part of the HSUS' seizure of 157 cats from a home near Powell, Wyoming. This seizure was unusual in that one of the home's residents called the authorities to report conditions in her home. After a month of investigation, the Park County Sheriff's Office and HSUS spent a full day capturing, examining and caring for the cats. An elderly man lived there, along with his wife and sister-in-law. It was the sister-in-law who finally called law enforcement for help when conditions in the home became unbearable. As is typical in most animal hoarding cases, hoarders believe that only they can provide for their animals, and they are unable to recognize the true living conditions surrounding them, such as overcrowding, the extreme ammonia smell from over full or nonexistent litter boxes and illness in their animals.



Kris Field with some of the 157 cages assembled at the fair-grounds, stacked 2 high, with litter boxes on top, waiting for the seized cats to arrive.  
Photo by Mary Morgan.

Unsurprisingly, many cats were found to have significant health problems, including tumors, ear mites and upper respiratory infections. Kris and the emergency/disaster team of sheltering specialists, including five local area vets, helped design and create a temporary shelter at the Park County Fairgrounds to house the cats while they were being evaluated and treated for various medical conditions. When the cat was stabilized, it could then be transported to a permanent facility for adoption.

HSUS provided a large tractor-trailer transport vehicle that carried supplies and other assistance, including veterinary specialists who helped examine and treat the cats. Petsmart Charities provided a trailer of cages, litter boxes, cat food and other items necessary for the cats. Similarly to the effort in Pennsylvania, Kris was part of a well organized and dedicated group of people, both professionals and trained volunteers, who rescue abused and neglected animals across the country.

Kris has particular skill with kittens, and she bottle fed the three shown here (two of whom show signs of eye infections) until their mother could be located. There were so many nursing mothers that it took shelter staff awhile to match each mother with her kittens.



Kris and kittens.  
Photo by Kristen Winn.



Feeding over 150 cats is a team effort. You can see the stacks of canned cat food in the background.  
Photo by Kris Field.



This newsletter is a periodic publication of, and the property of,  
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## KRIS GETS MAIL!

Actually, she gets 30 to 50 unsolicited emails a week, and here is a sample of just one:

### Not Every Rescue Story Has a Happy Ending

*This is a summary of email exchanges between Kirsten and Edward Frazier and Kris Field:*

October 11, 2010: Email from Kirsten to Everyone: "Hi everyone. Ed found a kitten today that stumbled and nearly collapsed in front of our patio. She is very bony (we have fed her canned food). We are keeping her in the basement away from our cats till we can find a home for her since we have 2 kitties already. The shelters I have called are either closed or not accepting any more cats. If any of you know of someone who wants a kitty and can provide a great home for her, please email and let us know. Attached is a picture of her. Thanks, Kirsten"

October 13: from Edward to Kris: "We took the cat into the vet last night . . . The 'basement kitty' is very sick and we decided we would pay for any medical assistance it may need. Thank you for replying so quickly to help find a home for the basement kitty but it looks like its condition is worse than originally thought."

From Kirsten to Kris: "Thanks so much for your kindness and replies. Turns out she has jaundice and possible liver cancer after the phone call with the vet this morning. The vet says that she is suffering and recommends putting her to sleep. She didn't have cat leukemia or aids. We did pay her vet bill. . . . Here in a few minutes I will call the vet to go ahead and do so. At this point, I don't think anything can rehabilitate the kitty."



"Basement Kitty"  
Photo by Kirsten Frazier.

From Edward to Kris: "Thank you kindly for your generous offer of assistance . . . unfortunately we found out a short time ago that the liver functions of this cat are very bad and the vet said they were sure it was liver cancer. I was hoping it was tapeworms because this was a very nice cat and my wife and I were on a mission to try to get her well but one look from the vet and she pretty much ruled out the tapeworm and said plain and simple 'this cat is dying.' The vet says it didn't have much longer to live so we gave them the go to put her down as the vet also mentioned it was in agony. So, needless to say, we are heartbroken but at the same time we are very thankful and happy to know that there are others like you who are just as passionate about animals as we are. Thank you again Kris."



Hello again everyone.  
This is Honeybear,  
Emergency/Disaster  
Liaison and Pet Lead  
for BCRO, writing to  
you from the BCRO  
headquarters.

It's time once again to talk about preparing your pets for an emergency. What that means is:

1. microchipping your animal(s);
2. putting a collar with ID on your animal;
3. preparing a box of some kind with bed, blanket, toys, food, water and food dishes and a note to yourself to add medications in the event that they are refrigerated. And if they need to be refrigerated, be sure to have a small cooler ready and an ice pack in the freezer, ready to go;
4. do not forget the water, for both yourself as well as for your pet(s).

It is a good idea to store this box in a garage or even in your car, in the event that you need to evacuate your house or apartment because of fire or other disaster.

Don't forget to pack photos, not only of your pet(s), but also of you WITH your pet, in case you need to show ownership. Sometimes it is hard to tell one black cat or one black lab from another in an emergency sheltering situation.

Put an emergency plan by your exit, listing reminders, for example, such as:

1. turn off gas and electricity (if this applies, and only if you have time to do so safely);
2. get checkbook, glasses, credit cards and medications for everyone;
3. grab blanket off of bed (if it is winter);

Never never risk your life to go back to get items that you think you might need. Everything is replaceable except you!



# **YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 14, 2011**

**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**3131 East Evans Avenue, Denver 80210**

**(NW corner of Evans and Adams)**

**BCRO's semi-annual yard sale is Saturday, May 14.**

**The yard sale is a major fund raising effort--your help is vital!**

**We're looking for donations of items large and small and  
for volunteers to help with the sale.**

**Please contact Eluise for more information or to donate items. Thanks!**

**303-733-5779**

## **KRIS TO THE RESCUE: AMERICAN RED CROSS DISASTER RESPONSE WORK**

In November 2010, Kris was part of a response team to a house fire in Aurora. After four years of persistence, Kris Field and Elizabeth DiPaolo from the American Red Cross have been able to bring enough awareness to the needs for Pets in Disaster to create a Pet Liaison volunteer position. This awareness allowed the response on-call person to notify Kris as soon as the Disaster Action Team recognized the immediate need for a pet liaison.

On December 28, 2010, Nathan Roberts, Senior Program Manager Response for the Red Cross, forwarded to Kris a letter received from another family that Kris assisted after their house fire: "I would like to commend the actions of Kris Field, your Red Cross volunteer, that assisted us the night of our fire . . . Her information was most helpful and knowing we had support if we needed it was priceless. The blankets she supplied were helpful that night (we had no electricity in our bedroom) and we are still using them at our hotel. You do great work. Thank you!"

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Big thanks to Bill Egan of Egan Printing for printing the newsletter.**

**Because to his generous support, the newsletter looks better than ever!**

**Egan Printing Company**

**1245 Elati Street • Denver, CO 80204-3612 • 303-534-0171**

## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE SHELTER OF \$50 OR MORE

So many of you donated checks, gift cards and cash to the kitties; and we are especially grateful to each one. There is no way that we could continue our work without you. No matter what the amount, every donation received goes directly to the cats for vet care, food and shelter.



**Lions** (\$1,000 or more), Liz Drennen, Eluise Marvin, Eileen Shellman



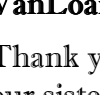
**Tigers** (\$500 or more), Lois Eckhoff, Bryce Hunt, Jean VanLoan, Debbie West



**Jaguars** (\$200 or more), Sandra and John Russel-Owens



**Leopards** (\$100 or more), Ed and Norma Bixby, Gay Dickerson, Pam Dickerson, Gary-Williams Oil Co., Gayle Hall, Denise Hoffman, Betty Patnoi, Eileen Robinson, Barbara Walker



**Panthers** (\$75 or more), Barbara Arenal, Liz DiPaolo, Heidi McIntyre



**Ocelots** (\$50 or more), Dawn Brandenburg, Joan Casey, Michele Denzer, Shelley Fleetwood, Carole Horton, Barbara and Wish Johnson, Kathy Lehr, Martha Carbonell Needles and Family, Sharon Nelson, Shirlee Powell, Megghan Stevens, Sally Young

Special thanks to these sponsors: **Penny Vogel** for sponsoring Timmie Christmas and **Jean VanLoan** for sponsoring Daisy.

Thank you also to **Dara Shalette** for providing us with a huge bag of baby-soft blankets for one of our sister feral colonies. Those blankets truly saved the lives of so many cats when our temperature dipped to minus 35 degrees last month in a killer cold front. Thank you for the gift of warmth!

Big thanks to **Carla Zinati**, Executive Director of Jefferson County Humane, for donating a case of 50 collapsible cardboard carriers to the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross for its PET AID projects. And also thanks to Animal Control Officers **Jenn** and **Mark** for delivering them.

Grateful thanks to **Chloe Lee** for expert altering of Kris's pet disaster response emergency pullovers so that they fit properly for her next deployment.

Big paw salutes to **Eileen Shellman** and **Eluise Marvin** for their unbelievably outstanding generous donation to our medical emergency outreach program.

Congratulations to **Joan Casey** on her retirement from over 30 years of service. She is also the latest recipient of our Golden Paw award given to individuals displaying the highest degree possible of service to animals in need. Joan is indeed a great friend to animals.

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Welcome aboard to new volunteers Cleo Hendrickson, Dena Culver, Dawn Brandenburg and Allynne Brandenburg, generous and true friends the kitties! Their caring volunteer work means that Kris can continue to rescue cats.

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## RECENT ADOPTIONS

### BRIANA, by Kris Field

On November 13, 2010, I went down to the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter to rescue two black kittens that were obviously dying. They were starving and one had a temperature of 97 degrees, sub normal. While I was waiting for them to get the paperwork done, I saw a tiny (10 ounces) grey kitten in a lower cage who had come front and center when I entered the room.

Apparently someone had found her in a local park, just wandering around by herself, under some bushes. She was only about four weeks old and very tiny.

There were two dogs barking non-stop in this room of caged cats, something that horrified me. There should never be dogs in the sick and injured or adoption room for kitties. That she was fearless and so very tiny just pulled at my heartstrings, and I pointed to her and said "I'll take her, too!"

Briana immediately went into a foster home for about a week because I had no room for her. We were in the middle of our annual fundraiser and every room except Timmie's was full of new merchandise for sale. However, I woke up one Sunday morning at 5 a.m., packed up all of the tables in the back room, called the foster home, and had her returned to the shelter that afternoon.



Briana, the most beautiful kitten in all of Colorado. Photo by Kris Field.



Kris with new arrival Briana on November 13. Photo by Eluise Marvin.

It was a challenge to get weight on her. I started out by keeping her in a large double cage and feeding her around the clock, especially baby food and canned . . . no dry food at all. We went through about a case a week, I think, plus a very expensive special diet canned food and Fancy Feast. Every day I weighed her, and every day she gained a tiny bit of weight. We went through the usual eye infections and so on, but she never did break with upper respiratory, thank goodness. I kept a vaporizer going 24/7 in her room and added a little vitamin C powder to her food daily.

Somewhere along the line I sent out a photo of her to friends, and I had already put her on Petfinder. Briana had the most hits of almost any other cat; and I literally had people begging me for this kitten, up to 20 calls a day. It was phenomenal. I finally decided on the lucky guardian: it was to be Liz DiPaolo, Head of Disaster Response at the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross. Liz fell in love with her immediately, and Briana was pretty crazy about her, too.

So, when Briana was vaccinated, spayed and microchipped, she finally left BCRO for her new wonderful adventure, her forever home. She now lives with her dad, Noel, her sister cat, Hera, her brother dog, Kody, and her part-time sister dog, Daisy, a Katrina rescue that Liz shares with her neighbor, Heidi.



Briana with her new mom Liz DiPaolo. Photo by Kris Field.

So . . . all's well that ends well, and it was an honor and a pleasure to share my life with her for almost four months. She is hands-down one of the most gorgeous, sweetest kittens I have ever worked with; and had I not promised her to my friend Liz, this is one baby who would have had a forever home right here with me. Good luck little, girl, and have a great life!



Kris with a growing Briana on February 11. Photo by Liz DiPaolo.

## TIMMIE

Timmie Christmas is the cat that Kris finally got to come inside at Christmastime 2009. He spent a full year with Kris getting healed from his days as an abandoned outdoor cat, waiting for his forever home, which arrived in January 2011 in the form of Annette Stearman and her husband, Mike. Here in Annette's words is her report on Timmie's first few weeks in his new home with his humans and another Barnwater Cat, Jesse, who had been adopted a few years earlier. Annette believes that Tim and Jes have been soul mates before because, "It was way too easy to mix these two adult cats together. There was only a minimal amount to testing one another. They seem to enjoy just being together. Tim would like to get a little closer. They are like grown brothers. They have both benefited from this relationship.



Timmie before his rescue.  
Photo by Kris Field.

"No special supervision today. They spent most of the day upstairs with us. Timmie comes when called (sorta like any cat. He knows he is being called, but just not in the mood for responding). Jes is not altering his schedule for the new arrival. We quiet everything and put the lights down at dinner time. Guess Tim thought we were going to bed. He went down to his room and got in his bed on the bed.



Timmie sleeping in his chair with Jesse in the background. Photo by Annette Stearman.

"Will only keep them separated at night for a few more times. I am watching the litter box. Will have a fecal done when he has been here a month. Found the reason Tim likes the soft chair in the dining room. It has a clear view of the bird feeder, food prep, my computer that Jes is enjoying for the moment, and it is over a heat vent. Yeh! He does not hesitate to jump up on the sofa, doesn't look around for a special spot, just rolls up in a ball next to me and goes to sleep. I'm falling in love again—Annette."

*And an email message direct from Timmie to Kris via Annette:*

"Dear Momma  
Kris, I was so

pleased to receive my toys. I curled up in bed with them and refused to share. I thank you for getting me over a rough time in my life. Being out in the cold and homeless is awful. I will always remember the wonderful home on Evans and all your love. I am relaxed and still feeling your love by selecting my forever family so carefully. My snuggles here still remind me of you. The toys have your scent. They were handled and packed with love. My love just grows, Your Timmie"

*Email to Kris from Jennifer Bond on January 9, 2011:* "I saw Timmie on Petfinder and your site and am so glad others are helping strays and ferals who wouldn't otherwise have anyone!

"On 9/9/2009 I live trapped a cat in my neighborhood whom I had been feeding for a little over a year. I know he lived in the neighborhood for years and do not know how long he was on his own (probably at least two years), where he came from, or any history. We also did not know his age. Mister Mittens (named after a beloved cat from my mom's childhood: I believe he was related to another kitty I had when I was growing up) was very quiet, unneutered, liked other cats and was terrified of people. He was also a very sweet cat, not a mean bone in his body. He would not have survived another cold winter.

"Outside he always let his girl and her kittens eat (they all disappeared before I could catch them; I trapped him shortly after). In the mornings I learned to go out with a whole can just for him; many times he would still be under our bushes waiting. I would sit on the porch so he could finish without the neighbor cats stealing his food. He was a most handsome black and white boy, with eyes that knew all, and maybe too much.

"He owned the top bunk of my bed, was warm, fed and loved with no strings attached. He allowed petting, but seemed stressed so I never pushed him too much. I talked to him often and rarely a day went by where I didn't tell him how much I loved him. Sometimes I would catch him on the edge of the bed watching me. He had toys,



Timmie and Jesse doing what they do best: sleeping. Photo by Annette Stearman.

of course, and during the day I would find his favorites scattered in his dish or on the floor. I never saw him play, but heard him at night sometimes. Sometimes I read to him, sometimes I sang (he was too polite to tell me I was off key!).

"I say all this in the past tense because Mittens left for heaven on January 3, 2011 at exactly 9:58 a.m. I was there for him in the end, whether he knew or not. My top bunk is very empty, and a huge part of my heart left with him. Even though I only had him 16 very short months, losing him was no less painful then losing cats who were family for 10 years, 17 years, 19 years, or 21 years.



Mittens photo by Jennifer Bond.

"And even though he never really completely trusted me, he gave off a special vibe I can't describe. The day before he died, he finally trusted me enough to clean off his face and seemed to appreciate and even like the attention. He also meowed at me, the only time he ever did. He stayed near the open area and seemed to like the music I was playing that day. I played that same tape for him and one of the songs came to the end just as he did.

"I hope he is playing up in heaven, free of all pain, free to sit in the sun, free of fear. I would not hesitate to help another if I can; I always knew he would not be a cuddly lap cat. But he was so very special, and perfect just the way he was. I told him that often too. Thank you again for all you do for these little ones." Jennifer Bond

### **TEDDY and GRACIE in Their New Home**

*Kate Merrill adopted Teddy and Gracie and on October 28, 2010 sent an email to Kris: "Good morning Miss Kris, Teddy & Gracie wanted me to forward a few 'unprofessionally taken' pictures that show some of their new lifestyle! The infamous 'green blankie' has warmed and comforted many a feline and canine over the years. And the 'power' Mr. Teddy garners from his manning his tissue papers is transformative! SUPER Teddy shows up with no fear . . . tearing and hiding and discovering and conquering with no thoughts of timidity . . . (Note: Miss Gracie has hidden one or her many feathers to join in the festivities!) The morning routine with their 'Nana' is now locked in, having completed her training for an early morning snack. Of course, there's more training to come! Finally, the afternoon sunning can't be beat with lots of warmth to enjoy! Life is good! Love, Kate"*



Nana Pat serving the morning snack to Teddy and Gracie. Photo by Kate Merrill.



Teddy, Gracie, tissue paper, feather. Photo by Kate Merrill.



Dr. Monica Watterud examining Gracie before her adoption. Photo by Kris Field.



Teddy and Gracie relaxing at home. Photo by Kate Merrill.



Pat and Kate with Gracie and Teddy ready to leave the shelter. Photo by Kris Field.

## ADOPTION UPDATES

### ASHE, Kris's "Special" Rescue Kitten from Pennsylvania

*November 10, 2010 Email from Julie Smithbauer:* "Hi Kris, here are a couple of pictures of Ashe. Ashe is doing very well. He has grown like a weed and is now long and sleek. As you can see in the one picture, he has gotten quite a bit of striping on his fur now. He just got neutered and we can all tell that it has mellowed him. Even our other cat has somewhat accepted him and, personally, I think the older cat enjoys the sparing that she and Ashe do! We all love him and don't know what we would do with out him. I hope all is well with you and your rescue organization!"



Ashe busy being a growing cat.



Ashe Revealed.

Photos by Julie Smithbauer.

### Katrina Kittens Grow Up

*A New Year's Message to Kris from Sandi Eckert:* "Oh my dear, you are so sweet and humble.....if it hadn't been for you, flying down and smuggling, it never would have happened! I still remember looking around for, searching and searching and calling around for a black kitten and a grey tiger kitten.....none to be found anywhere. I don't remember how I found you, probably the web. I asked you if you had a black kitten and a grey tiger striped kitten and nearly leaped for joy when you said you DID! I remember coming over with Steve to meet them in your little office room and falling in love with them immediately.



Tigger and Turbo at the shelter soon after arrival from Waveland, Mississippi. Photo by Kris Field.

"They are soooooo loving and healthy and cute and friendly, and loving and snuggly and fun. They have different personalities and blend together well. I love them both so much and am so grateful they are mine. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your shifty, sneaky ways!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

*From Kris to Sandi:* "God just dropped an angel in my life when he sent me you. I am seriously grateful to you for adopting both of those boys together. I try not to think about the three of their brothers and sisters and their mom that I had to leave behind, but I had to smuggle them on board as it was and knew that even two was pushing it. Thank you, forever!"

### BRIANA

*From new mom Liz on February 17:* "Ohhhhhhh I am the lucky one!!! She is doing great. She sleeps on my neck now . . . I wake up with her basically laying on my face. She and Hera secretly play, but in front of us are still hissy and pissy."

### New Arrival at Rainbow Bridge

Samuel Grey Nelson, "Sammie," who left us on February 11, 2011. Beloved baby of Sharon Nelson. Sammie's best buddy, fellow cat Alex, is lost without her companion, as is Sharon.

Sammie. Photo by Sharon Nelson.



## ***Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets.***

**Rowman & Littlefield Publishing.** A new book by Allie Phillips, including an interview with Kris Field

Allie is an animal advocate, attorney and vice president of the American Human Association in Washington, DC and author of *How Shelter Pets are Brokered for Experimentation: Understanding Pound Seizures*. Join the conversation at [www.alliephillips.com](http://www.alliephillips.com) and on Facebook at *You Can Do More for Animals*.

*Defending the Defenseless* includes interviews with almost 40 people who work on behalf of animals. It is a practical book on the ways that everyone can do more to help companion animals and includes an interview with Kris Field about helping feral cats. Kris has 2 copies for sale of *How Sheltered Pets are Brokered*: it's an outstanding must read, especially for Colorado residents, as this state does not consider pound seizures illegal.



Author Allie Phillips and her cat Oscar.  
Photo by Michael Carpenter.

*Excerpt from the book, used by permission of Rowman & Littlefield Publishing:* Kris became involved in helping feral and abandoned cats because as she so bluntly states, "if you don't help them, who will?" She explains, "They are out there because somebody has abandoned them, they have not spayed or neutered them, or sometimes people just don't care. Here are these little animals with little souls and little hearts and they have no one to take care of them and feed them. People assume that cats can take care of themselves. Not all cats can fend for themselves. What if they have a toothache and spend their entire lives in pain? One person could trap them, take them to the vet, clean their teeth, pull the bad teeth, give them an antibiotic shot, spay/neuter them, give them a rabies shot, and the next day they can be released and it changes their whole life. That's why I do it." With the rise in unemployment and home foreclosures across the United States, some people are abandoning their friendly family cats outdoors in hopes that they will find food or a new home. For Kris, those cats are easy to identify and help.

### **WHAT'S A FERAL CAT? By Kris Field**

If you make it to my back steps, you will find a large plate of canned food, a bowl of fresh water and a deep dish of mixed kibbles, suitable for noshing, any time, day or night, in any weather. And every month, I go through about 150 cans of Friskies. Why is that? It is because of the feral cat population that comes and goes freely throughout the year. And by "feral," I mean either a cat that has been born in the wild or a cat that has been abandoned, left behind to fend for himself when his owners moved or divorced or whatever. These kitties are afraid of human contact because they have learned that it is only by being wary of humans and other predators that they can survive.

Over the years, I have fed and trapped and medicated and neutered and spayed and re-released and adopted out many many kitties. Some come and eat and take shelter in one of the igloos for a few months, then I never see them again. I always take photos of them, report their appearance to the Denver Dumb Friends' League, sometimes put ads in the newspaper, answer all "lost cat" posters with "found cat" posters, but I almost never actually make a connection to return a kitty to his home.

Our long-term resident Callie is a beautiful calico girl who appeared one day about 13 years ago. She is totally trap savvy (will not come into the yard when one is out), but thank goodness she has been spayed already and has never brought home a single kitten.



Beautiful, shy Callie, a frequent guest at Kris's door. Photo by Kris Field.

The years have been hard on her (and on me), because whenever we have a major snowstorm, I have to shovel various pathways for her all over the huge double lot that is my yard, just so she can eat and drink. I change the water every few hours around the clock when the temperature dips, so she will have warm water to raise her body temperature. And for all of these years, I have adored her and watched her roll in the grass and sniff the catnip I plant for her every year. And even though, after all of this time, and even though she knows her name and comes when I call her, she is not one inch closer to letting me touch her than she was on the first day she appeared. Do I care? Do I love her less? Absolutely not. She is now and will always be, my adorable, wonderful "outdoor" baby . . . and she will have a home with me until she decides it's time for her to go . . .

## KRIS'S FERAL COLONY

Callie is only one of many feral cats that Kris routinely feeds. Here are three other feral cats that Kris has been feeding over the years, and an interloper. She has been able to take pictures of only a few of the cats, as most of them are extremely shy and only come to feed after dark. All photos are by Kris Field.



Dixie

Marina



Allie

Rocky  
Raccoon



### Occupation: Feline Rescue©

When I think of how I've lived my life,  
I know this to be true . . .  
It's not just about the cats I've saved  
But how they saved me, too.

I've crept through dark, forbidding yards,  
Beneath a starless sky . . .  
Searching for an injured cat  
Who haunts me with her cry.

I've struggled through the pouring rain  
And hiked through fields of mud . . .  
Desperately searching for the cat  
Who left a trail of blood.

I've spent a thousand sleepless nights,  
And cursed and cried and prayed . . .  
Trying to trap just one more cat  
To take in to be spayed.

I've walked along the busy streets,  
Just trying to be kind . . .  
By picking up the broken cats  
Careless drivers left behind.

I've bottle-raised so many kittens,  
Whose mouths were open wide . . .  
Crying for their mothers  
Who surely must have died.

And though I try to do my best,  
To answer every call . . .  
Even with the Angels' help  
I cannot save them all.

But . . . if I can make a difference,  
Or help a cat in any way . . .  
Then this I beg of you, dear God  
Just give me one more day!

Kris Field, October 26, 2004