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515-428-CATS (2287)



## Making a difference in Warren County, one cat at a time

Welcome to January's *The Scratching Post!*

Once a month, we'll drop by your inbox to share our latest news, introduce you to just a few of our precious adoptables and share helpful TNR hints so that YOU can make a difference, right where you are.

[Visit our website](#)

*Wanted: New homes for the new year!*



**Sheba**

Sheba's "resting kitty face" cracks us up. She either looks like she's smiling (see her photo at the top of the page!) or unintentionally stern. "Sheba is a super sweet girl that just doesn't know how to show it," says her foster dad. "When you look at her, she gives off a vibe of a scared or upset cat when that couldn't be further from the truth." Sheba's absolute favorite thing is swapping affection with people. She even has an adorable habit of reaching out her paw to stop them from leaving if she thinks a petting session is winding down. "She loves to be petted and will let you know that she is never ready for you to be done giving her love."

[Learn more](#)



**Samosa**

If you're a fan of Indian food, you might already have the general idea about Samosa. Just like the crispy appetizer she's named for, Samosa "is beautiful and golden on the outside with a whole mix of flavors inside," says her foster mom. She needs to build trust with humans before she'll spend time near them, but then "she has a sweet side where she will pull you in and hold you close when you pick her up." Samosa is an "observer" who likes to study her surroundings, and her very presence is her foster mom's favorite thing about her, especially "her lush, fluffy tail and her eyes that look like she is wearing eyeliner. She is truly an exotic beauty."

[Learn more](#)



**Jimmy**

There's no crying in baseball! But Jimmy's adopter just might shed tears of joy at finding such a special kitten. Jimmy was named after the gruff but lovable coach on "The League of Their Own" – but this handsome boy is purely lovable! After he and his siblings were orphaned, a Good Samaritan saw to it that they were cared for. Just like his namesake, Jimmy is "the leader" of the pack who is the most outgoing and was especially eager to come indoors. And if you're wondering just how cute Jimmy and his siblings are, "They all believe their names are Pretty Baby or Sweet Baby!" according to their finder. Can Jimmy coach you on kitten cuddles?

[Learn more](#)

***Thank you, volunteer  
Suzanne Popson!***

At first glance, you might think that Suzanne Popson is a dog person. As it turns out, she's an



equal-opportunity animal lover, whether it's her Afghan Hounds or the cats and kittens that she helps through Whiskers TNR.

"She is always willing to help out in whatever capacity she can," said Nicole Rhodes, volunteer coordinator for Whiskers. "No job is too big or too small for Suzanne."

That's why we're pleased to feature Suzanne as the first volunteer highlighted this year, someone who shines behind the scenes as well as in the public's eye. She often helps with transportation requests but is also a master at helping plan and execute big events, including our five-year anniversary celebration.

"She anticipates where help is needed during an event and is easily able to step in," said Rhodes. "She utilizes her communication skills to draw people in and teach them about the importance of our mission."

Suzanne brings a wealth of personal knowledge with her, too. She has previous experience with other animal welfare nonprofits, her day job is in pet nutrition, and she tends her own TNR colony, which she describes as her obsession for the past 15 years.

"When one or two stray cats got the word out that my house had food, I found myself doing my own little unofficial TNR program while at the same time working to earn the trust of the cats I was caring for," she explained. "This is where my heart is."

Otherwise, Suzanne's heart is in showing her Afghan Hounds in confirmation and field events several weekends every year. A fan of art and museums as well, she usually tries to find an exhibit to visit while she and her pooches are on the road.

Of course, we're incredibly thankful that all of Suzanne's journeys have led her back to Whiskers TNR,

"Suzanne, thank you for being gracious with your time and your ideas. ... You are always an advocate for Whiskers TNR," Rhodes said. "We are so lucky to have you on our team."



*The heart of Whiskers TNR's new holding facility is a surgery suite where volunteer veterinarians and techs will perform onsite spays and neuters. Thanks*

## Miccio comes through for Whiskers, again!

We are so excited and grateful to announce that the Miccio Foundation in Iowa City has chosen Whiskers TNR for a grant award -- again!

This is the FIFTH time the foundation has supported Whiskers, awarding \$6,850 that will enable the completion of the surgery suite in the new holding facility.

The Miccio Foundation was the dream of the late Dr. Ursula Delworth, a professor at the University of Iowa who dearly loved animals, including her

to Miccio, its completion is now possible!

cat, Miccio. Check out the [Miccio website](#) to learn more about this amazing foundation!

## Sponsor spotlight: Corner Sundry

The next time you're on the square in Indianola, be sure to stop by Corner Sundry. It's THE place for old-fashioned sodas and more, and its owner generously donated gift certificates as a special treat for our first volunteer/foster highlighted this year. *Thank you!*



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