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515-428-CATS (2287)



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

Welcome to April'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](#)

*Spring into a new friendship
with one of our adoptables!*



Charlotte

Have a heart for a shy kitty that wants SO badly to be loved? That's Charlotte, who is also this month's "cover cat" above. "She likes to have her safe space but will soak up all the attention that you will give her," says her foster dad. "She wants pets. All the time!" This beautiful dilute tortie would do best in a quieter home where she could find her own space, but "she has made incredible progress and would love for someone to give her a chance." Could that person be you?

[Learn more](#)



Storm

Storm has her shy moments but, once comfortable, is a whirlwind of silliness. "She has a bin of toys, and she drags them out and scatters them. ... It looks like a tornado storm of cat toys has blown through the house!" She also likes to be near other animals and her people, even leaving them overnight tokens of her affection. "She carries the toys in her mouth and drops them at each person's bedroom door at night." Are you ready for Storm to shower you with love?

[Learn more](#)



Treasure

Just months ago, Treasure was found in a trash bin. "She looked awful," recalls her foster mom. "She barely weighed three pounds and wouldn't eat." But Whiskers wouldn't give up on her, and now this beauty is ready to become the family pet she's meant to be! She cuddly and has the most adorable habit when it comes to greeting her foster mom: "When she comes up to me, she always wants to rub up on my chin." Are you ready to bring this gem of a feline home?

[Learn more](#)



A Happy Tail: *Ralphie*

Sometimes adoption comes about in unexpected ways. That was the case with Ralphie, a jaunty little kitten originally known as Virgil at Whiskers TNR.

His new mom, Linzi Welsh, hadn't been planning to adopt, after all. Then, when she did fill out an application at Whiskers, it was with a different kitten in mind.

Thank you, Linzi, for updating us about Ralphie

for this month's *Happy Tail* adoption success story. And for giving Ralphie such a fun, loving home!



"She was not available yet, but Whiskers told me about Ralphie and his story, and I couldn't say no!" Linzi recalls.

Now, that plot twist seems meant to be. Linzi has been amazed by how Ralphie, with his "fearlessness," has brought together the other pets in their home: three big dogs and the two other kittens who once steered clear of them. But even more impressive is Ralphie's bond with Linzi's four-year-old daughter.

"The minute she comes home, he runs to her. He lays on her and purrs 24/7 with her. ... He sleeps on her chest every night. They are best friends!"

As adventurous as he is loving, Ralphie "gets into *everything*" and has a habit of carrying off things that he finds on the counter or in bags. But Linzi wouldn't have it any other way.

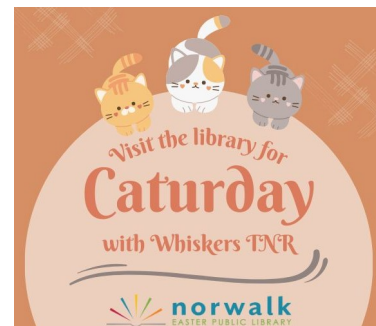
In fact, her advice to others contemplating adopting? "Keep an open mind! We thought we wanted a completely different kitten and, had we not opened ourselves to Ralphie, we would have missed out on the best cat I have ever met."

News kibble: Quick bits to keep you in the know!

🐱 Don't miss the next edition of Caturday on Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at Norwalk Easter Public Library. Learn how to "Spring into Action" with Whiskers TNR and, as always, meet some of our cutest adoptables!

🐱 Whiskers TNR held its second vaccine clinic on March 18. Thank you to Petco Love for supplying free distemper vaccines, and to our volunteers who helped administer those along with the rabies vaccines and microchips that Whiskers offered for \$10 each.

🐱 Whiskers TNR's garage sale will be back on Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, in Norwalk. More details to follow. And remember -- we'd love to accept your donations



earlier that week!

Questions? Find more info at [our website](#) or [Facebook page](#) or [email us](#).



Thank you, Anne Burnett!

It takes a village to help Warren County's most vulnerable cats. In this monthly feature, we highlight one of Whiskers TNR's many incredible volunteers.



You could say that Anne Burnett has fostering and volunteering down to a science ... or is it an art? She has been an integral part of Whiskers TNR since 2017, known for her creativity and versatility.

"Thank you, Anne, for your constant display of compassion for the animals," said Whiskers founder Corissa Arndt. "I admire your creativity and your eagerness to help in any way possible."

Burnett has fostered, served on the Whiskers board of directors, coordinated the spay/neuter of outdoor cats, and organized a cat shelter building event -- often with her family pitching in. And those ultra-adorable pics of our adoptable kitties? Burnett's handiwork as Whiskers TNR's official photographer.

Burnett approaches the other aspects of life with equal flair, a musician, world traveler and professional photographer along with her husband. Her part-time day job is at the Iowa Utility Association, a nonprofit in the East Village.

As lucky as Whiskers is to have Anne on the volunteer roster, Anne considers herself lucky, too.

"I often consider how lucky we are to have Whiskers in our backyard," she reflected. "I often say, if each county had a dedicated 'Corissa,' we would be able to solve overpopulation and every cat would be cared for and healthy."

Until that day comes, Burnett plans to keep rolling up her sleeves.

"I've been an animal advocate since age 9 when I joined the Humane Society of the United States," she said. "Protecting all animals, wildlife included, is extremely important to me."

Thank you to Whip It Good in Indianola for donating a gift card for this month's Whiskers Warrior!



2 months, 2 pounds: Time 2 spay and neuter

It's a phenomenon we see all too often here at Whiskers TNR: a mama cat who is so young that she's technically still a kitten herself!

A way to prevent this? Remember this rule of thumb: 2 months, 2 pounds = time to spay and neuter. According to our friends at Alley Cat Allies, not only does this prevent pregnancy in kittens as young as four months old, kittens recover quicker from the surgery.

Want to learn more? Check out this [resource from Alley Cat Allies](#).

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