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**515-428-CATS (2287)**



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

Welcome to June'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](#)

*Three lovely ladies waiting for  
their forever families!*



## Sopapilla

There's never a dull moment with Sopapilla! She may be a senior, but she's found the fountain of youth as far as silliness is concerned.

"Sopapilla is such a goofball!" says her foster mom. But this little comedian has plenty of sweetness, too – just like her dessert namesake. She likes to curl up with other cats and has even sought out the laps of kids. More than anything, she'd like her very own person to entertain and love. Is your home where sweet Sopapilla will get her just desserts?

[Learn more](#)



## Chianti

When Chianti first arrived at Whiskers, she was as spicy as her vino namesake. But in just her short time with us, Chianti has aged like fine wine and proven she's meant to be someone's loyal companion. "I am so impressed with the progress that she has made going from scary protective mamma to the sweetheart she is now," says her first foster dad. It turns out that Chianti had so much love bottled up, just waiting for the right people. Could she serve up her next round for you?

[Learn more](#)



## Sybil Rose

Sybil Rose arrived as a scared colony cat. Then came a sign of hope that she could be adopted someday: Sybil would rub against her kennel door at the mere sight of people! "She started to blossom," said her initial foster dad. Now this beauty (who's also this month's "cover cat" at the top of the page) loves to climb onto laps and chat with humans. She's even figured out that they often come with her favorite toy attached: drawstrings! Has this "sweet and sassy" girl drawn you in?

[Learn more](#)

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## A Happy Tail: Lucy, who went from feral to 'queen of the castle'



*Thank you, Wendy, for updating us about Lucy for this month's adoption success story. We're thrilled that you didn't give up on this beautiful girl meant to be a kitty queen!*

Wendy's home had always been an animal-loving one. But when her family's last pet passed away, she knew she was looking for a special new addition: an adult cat who was good with kids and comfortable being the only feline.

When Jeremy Arndt of Whiskers recommended Lucy, a one-eyed beauty still becoming comfortable with people, Wendy decided to adopt her. It wasn't easy at first – Lucy just wanted to steer clear of her humans and was prone to accidents. But, "Lucy wasn't my first difficult cat," Wendy said. "I recommend not giving up."

A turning point was when Wendy convinced Lucy to sit on her lap for a movie. "Once she realized that we weren't going to harm her, she warmed up to my son." Big time. She's even been known to lick her boy's hair, is quite playful even at 11 years old, and is now known as Queen Lucy.

"She runs the house and allows us humans to reside in it!" Wendy laughs. "She has her favorite spot in every room. ... Affection is on her terms but generous once given."

In fact, the pandemic meant a big adjustment for Lucy, who, as it turned out, liked having plenty of "me time" in her kingdom.

"When COVID hit, she wanted us to leave and vocalized her frustration. I refer to her as Lucifer when she is like that," Wendy explained. "She adapted after about a week and began to demand things. It still happens: open the front door so she can look out, throw her toys, 'I want treats,' etc. She remains the queen of the castle."

And rightfully so.

"Lucy loves my son," Wendy said. "He had communication issues when he was younger and didn't know how to interact with pets. She had been feral and didn't know how to be a pet. They learned to communicate with each other and both have gained from the relationship."

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

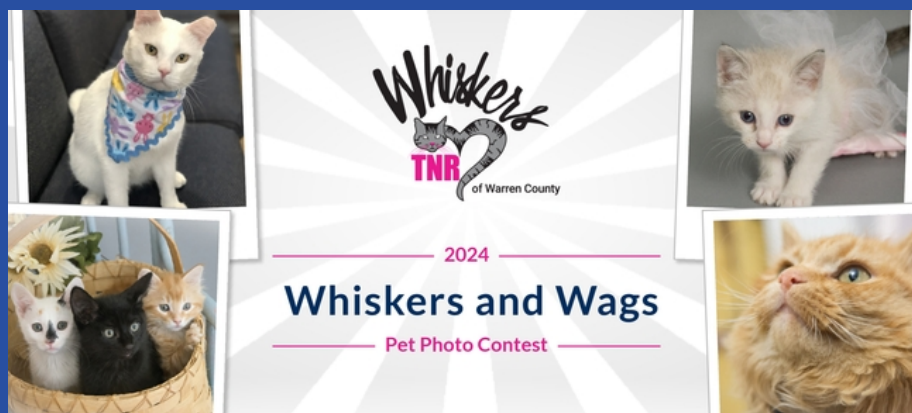
🐱 The summer edition of Saturday Cat Cafe is coming! Head to Norwalk Easter Public Library from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 11 for yummy flavored waters, snuggles with our adoptables and answers to any questions that you have about Whiskers TNR. Check out



the [event page on Facebook](#) to learn more.

🐱 And (drum roll ...) Caturday has been such a hit in Norwalk that we're taking the show on the road! Find us at the New Virginia Public Library at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 13. Learn more [here](#).

🐱 We do love a good anniversary party, and Smitten Kitten is about to throw a big one for their 15th! Visit their Des Moines location on Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for refreshments, gift bags, huge sales and more. We'll be there with some of our sweetest adoptables!



## ***Wanted: Furry calendar models***

Can't you just imagine Fluffy as Miss December? Or Toby as the Pet of the Year? Whiskers TNR is hosting a "Whiskers and Wags" photo contest with the winners to be showcased in a 2024 calendar.

To enter the contest, there is a \$5 fee and you can enter a photo of your pet (cats, dogs, or any other pet species!) that you would like to be featured on the calendar. Then, you can vote for your pet by placing a dollar amount donation. For example, \$10 is 10 votes for your pet! Then you can share your unique link with your friends on social media and ask them to vote for your pet as well by placing their own donations. You can vote for as many pets as you want, as many times as you want. There will be a LOT of winners so we encourage you to participate and share this post with your friends!! To enter [head to this website](#). Voting is underway now through July 31!



## *Shannon Bardole-Foley: Always abuzz with Whiskers projects!*



Shannon Bardole-Foley may have come to Whiskers TNR by chance after she saw a need in her new neighborhood. But seeing her now as a foster and volunteer, we think it was meant to ... bee.

"I honestly don't think she ever had intentions of fostering," said Corissa Arndt, Whiskers TNR's founder. "But after she began helping her neighbor with his colony of cats, she quickly saw an opportunity to meet an immediate need for some kittens and began the journey to become one of the most valuable fosters Whiskers has today."

That's why we've chosen Shannon as this month's Whiskers Warrior – our way of recognizing, one by the one, the many incredible fosters and volunteers at Whiskers TNR.

And in Shannon's case, she stepped aboard amid an already busy schedule. By day, she's the camp registrar and development coordinator for Iowa United Methodist Camps. She also operates Honey Hollow Apiary and Gardens with her husband, Jason. Beekeeping, pouring honey, making candles, making creamed honey, running the Honey Hollow store – she's involved with all aspects.

She takes a similar approach with Whiskers. Heading to the office? Shannon often has foster kittens in tow (with her employer's blessing) to help socialize them and perhaps find them forever homes. Assisting customers at Honey Hollow? Shannon keeps a donation jar on the counter, along with information about Whiskers, and Jason and Shannon give a portion of their proceeds during Small Business Saturday to our nonprofit.

A gifted crafter, Shannon even makes toys for Whiskers kitties and soft fleece blankets for every adoptable kitten, so that they can take a comforting piece of their foster home with them to their forever family.

Shannon has done so much since becoming involved with Whiskers in 2020, but the two official "greeters" at Honey Hollow – cats named Honeyduke and Floppers – are reminders of how it all began. While they're best friends now, the duo started out as mortal enemies before Shannon assisted with their TNR.

"To see the impact it's made on those cats has been so rewarding," Shannon said. "They don't fight, and they've gotten so much healthier. I really believe they're living a better life than they would have without intervention."

And Whiskers TNR is infinitely better with Shannon a part of it.

"She keeps stepping up and she keeps doing some beautiful things in the lives of those she fosters, as well as those people she crosses paths with," Corissa said. "Thank you, Shannon. Thank you for sharing your time and your talents with Whiskers."

***Thank you, Grounds Around Town, for donating gift cards for this month's Whiskers Warrior!***

**Whiskers TNR Of Warren County**

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