



The Scratching Post

July 2023

*Welcome to Whiskers TNR of Warren County's monthly newsletter.
We're on a mission to make a difference, one cat at a time.*

[Visit our website](#)

Three of our sweetest adoptables



Sage

Have a best friend that you can't imagine doing life without? Sage understands!

She loves her bonded buddy, Capri (pictured at right) so much that the duo even raised their kittens in the same bed. But now that these ladies have retired from motherhood, they're looking for a human BFF to complete their crew. "They are both super friendly and sweet cats!" says their foster mom. Could the person they're looking for be you?

[Learn more](#)

Capri

Capri (who is this month's "cover cat" above) has two loves: her best friend, Sage, pictured at left, and people. "They are always together," says their foster mom of the feline duo. "They are both super friendly and sweet cats!" After teaming up to raise their kittens, they're ready to find a forever home together. And with these two, that means double the love. "They want to play on your lap and around your ankles and get lots of pets and attention."

[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 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](#)

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

🐱 Books AND cats?! Sounds like a summer paradise to us. If it does to you, too, be sure to catch the next Saturday 10 a.m. to noon on July 8 at Norwalk Easter Public Library. We'll have free cat/kitten snuggles with some of our cutest adoptables as usual, plus information on this month's special topic: plant safety around our feline friends.

🐱 Kitten season is in full swing -- just look at all those sweet faces on our website (including Pecan at right, who's working on getting bigger to be available for adoption)! But lots of kitties means lots of hungry bellies, too. Would you consider **supporting Whiskers** by donating gift cards to Petco, Chewy or Amazon? Every contribution helps us in a very real way to keep food dishes full or supply cabinets stocked. Thank you!





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.

For a \$5 fee, you can enter the photo of your pet (cat, dog, or any other species!) that you would like to be featured. Then you can vote for your pet by placing a dollar amount donation. For example, \$10 is 10 votes for your pet. Plus, 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](#). Vote now through July 31!



Dr. Loni Ellsworth: 'Above all, her compassion shines'



Dr. Loni Ellsworth was a new veterinarian looking to gain experience. Whiskers TNR was hitting a growing spurt (one of many to come!) and needed help.

Combining forces only made sense – and has led to an important partnership still growing four years later, even after Ellsworth moved from Norwalk to practice in eastern Iowa.

We're thrilled to recognize her as July's Whiskers Warrior, our way of highlighting, month by month, our many incredible fosters and volunteers.

"Loni's determination and true investment in Whiskers TNR's mission is inspiring," said Nicole Rhodes, the nonprofit's volunteer coordinator. "She goes to great lengths to continue to support us from afar."

That has included driving back to help with special events like this past spring's free vaccine clinic, serving on our board and directors, and earning

Whiskers TNR a \$25,000 Petco Love grant by sharing her story of how a rescued cat, Bumble, helped her cope with the stress that goes along with veterinarian work.

“I think Whiskers TNR is such an incredible organization,” Ellsworth said. “It is truly an honor to be involved with them and get to see so many cats get homes.”

Rhodes, who also volunteers as a foster at Whiskers, recalled a particular time when she, and a struggling kitten, leaned on Ellsworth’s expertise and kindness.

“Above all, her compassion shines. I will never forget her dedication to one specific kitty who we did not think would make it because he had a very rough start in life,” Rhodes explained. “I was bottle feeding round the clock and Loni was making regular house calls to check on his health and administer anything the little fella needed.”

The kitten made it – “one of our great success stories,” said Rhodes – but Ellsworth has “been there to cry with us, too, when the outcomes are not as great.”

In her day job, Ellsworth makes a difference in even more lives, from cats and dogs to exotic pets. To unwind, she practices Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and, originally from Alaska, feels drawn to one of Iowa’s most iconic places.

“I love going to my parents’ cottages on the Mississippi River and going on boat rides, hanging out on beaches and river bars,” she said.

Here at Whiskers, we’re incredibly grateful that Dr. Ellsworth continues to “hang out” with us, too. Her knowledge, dedication and “bedside manner” make Whiskers TNR stronger -- no matter the situation.

“Her compassion and drive to keep going, even in the hard times, is a true inspiration,” Rhodes said.

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