



The Scratching Post

September 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](#)

MEOW MIXER  *Save the date!*
**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 4TH**
A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING
WHISKERS TNR OF WARREN COUNTY
St James Celebrations
Indianola, IA

Are all you cool cats ready for a party?! Tickets are available now for our first ever soiree of its kind, the Meow Mixer, planned for Saturday, Nov. 4, at St. James Celebrations near Indianola. The evening will feature charcuterie by Platters with Purpose, exquisite wines, the musical stylings of Dang Felton and Sara Routh and so much more!

Snag your tickets or pre-purchase souvenir T-shirts or bottles of wine now and watch for an online auction full of treasures the week before the mixer. Head to the [event page on Facebook](#) or www.whiskerstnr.org to get started. You won't

Dreaming of adoption ...



Charlotte

Have a heart for a shy kitty that wants so badly to be loved? Let us introduce Charlotte, who initially just hid in her kennel, but now has discovered her inner lap cat. "Charlotte is a shy girl but has so much love to give," says her foster mom. In fact, Charlotte even has an adorable habit of licking someone's hand to remind them to pet her! "She would love to have her own dedicated humans to shower with love."

[Learn more](#)



LuLu

At first, we thought LuLu (who is also this month's "cover cat" above) was older, thanks to those adorable smudges of white hair on her face. Turns out she's practically still a kitten - and a lovable one! "She always has her purr motor on when you come in the room," says her foster mom. Once LuLu feels safe, this "super sweet" girl leans in for chin scratches and "loves to be around her human." Could that be 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 Rose 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](#)



Angie Richey: She gets 'the dirty work done' with a smile



scrubbing the floor or snuggling a kitten. Angie Richey is ready to roll up her sleeves.

Richey has been named Whiskers TNR's "Whiskers Warrior," its volunteer of the month, for September.

"Angie is committed to giving. She has been a wonderful addition to the Whiskers fosters/volunteers and is always willing to help," said Rhodes, Whiskers TNR's volunteer coordinator. "She also inspires her kids to give back to the community at such a young age."

In fact, when Richey first connected with Whiskers in August 2022, it was with her husband, Matt, and their kids, Molly and John, in tow. The family had been checking out "Caturday," when Whiskers volunteers bring adoptables to Norwalk Easter Public Library once a month.

Richey filled out an application to volunteer and, as it happened, Whiskers organizers were looking for someone to help clean their new holding facility in Prole.

"When I called Angie to walk through her application, I remember saying, 'How do you feel about cleaning toilets?' That was the beginning of a great relationship," Rhodes said, laughing.

In fact, Richey and her family now takes in cats and kittens in addition to their cleaning duties.

"I love snuggling kittens, but I really like the feeling that I'm contributing to such a worthy cause," she said of her favorite aspect of volunteering. "Molly helps me clean the Whiskers building on Saturday mornings, and John helps take care of the foster kittens in our home."

When Richey isn't volunteering, she can be found at her day job as a supervision analyst at a broker dealer, curling up with a good book, or exploring the great outdoors courtesy of Warren County Conservation's geocaches, which she described as "like a treasure hunt to find a hidden 'cache'" in area parks.

And in the midst of fostering, the Richeys found another kind of unexpected treasure: a cat they couldn't bear the part with, a gray, timid beauty named Sheba. They hadn't planned to adopt but formed a unique bond with her while working to gain her trust.

"Sheba is our foster-to-forever girl," Richey said. "She's extremely awkward but so sweet, and we all love her so much."

It's that kind of dedication and bigheartedness that Richey shows every day, said Rhodes, whether she's sporting cleaning gloves or a foster kitten in her arms.

"Angie, thank you for being so open-minded for helping get the dirty work done," Rhodes said. "You opened your home and your heart to being vulnerable to foster and have taken on some really tricky cases. Whiskers is grateful for everything you do."

*News kibble:
Quick bits to keep*

you in the know!



🐱 Is your cat ready to strut his or her stuff? Or maybe it's you who's ready for an afternoon of all things cats? Don't miss the Smitten Kitten Community Cat Show Sunday, Sept. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Windsor Heights Community and Event Center. Learn more on [the event page on Facebook](#).

🐱 Join us for another installment of Caturday at Norwalk Easter Public Library 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 16.

🐱 Whiskers will hold its fall garage sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29-30, at 1719 Cedar St. in Norwalk. We'd love to start taking your donations Sept. 25!

A Happy Tail: Bitsy, who proves 'love needs no words'

When Amy Markey's family moved into their first home, she knew just what she wanted for it: a kitten. After all, she's a cat lover and wanted her two daughters to experience the joy of having a feline companion.

Then, when a friend shared a social media post about Bitsy, a "sweet and spunky" baby at Whiskers TNR, Markey fell in love right away. As it turned out, the feeling was mutual on adoption day.

"It didn't take Bitsy long to warm up to us," Markey remembers. "She purred in the car the whole way home!"

While Bitsy did need a minute to acclimate to her new home-sweet-home, she soon settled in, "playing with toys one minute, then on your lap kneading the next."

It's been especially touching for Markey to see interactions between Bitsy and Markey's daughter, Eve, who has a speech delay called Apraxia of Speech. Eve has been able to say "Bitsy" since day one, but "they are proof that love needs no words."



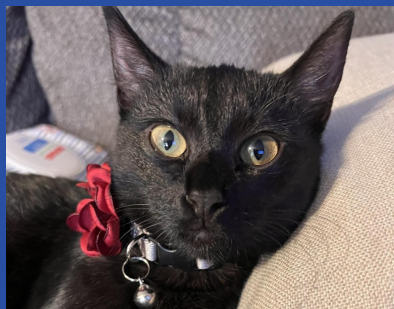
There's no doubt that Bitsy is a very special kitten -- and we're thrilled she found an equally special forever family! Thank you, Amy, for updating us for this month's Happy Tail adoption success story!

To others considering adoption, Markey recommends checking out the Whiskers website like she did. Each adoptable has plenty of adorable photos, a bio describing their unique personality, and information like whether they like kids or other pets.

“You won’t ever regret giving any of the cats/kittens who are up for adoption a chance at having a loving home,” Markey adds. “They will bring so much happiness and love into your life. It’s a selfless act to give these beautiful animals a lifetime of unconditional love.”

And that’s certainly the plan for Bitsy.

“Bitsy has been the perfect addition to our family,” Markey says. “It’s been great for my daughters to have a pet to play with and help care for. Bitsy can turn your whole day around with her loving personality!”



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