



# The Scratching Post

October 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



The countdown is on to our most epic event yet! Do you have your tickets to ... the Meow Mixer?

Snag yours today or learn more at [www.whiskerstnr.org](http://www.whiskerstnr.org).

*It's tricky waiting to be adopted!*





**Mick**

Mick rocks when it comes to playing with his siblings in the "Fleetwood Mac Litter." Any toy that makes noise is music to their ears! But when it comes to trusting people? Mick is a heartwarming work in progress – incredibly sweet but a little shy. "He is a sweet boy that hasn't decided if he should trust humans." But we have no doubt that when he does, he'll make one showstopper of a companion. Are you the person to win Mick over?

[Learn more](#)



**Christine**

As part of the "Fleetwood Mac Litter," Christine is a real showstopper. (And this month's "cover cat" above!) We love how it looks like she's wearing eyeliner – perfect for a little torbie who rocks! "She is a great little snuggle girl," says her foster mom. "She's pretty laid back but can race around the room." That's especially true if there are balls or toys that make noise – Christine's favorites. Sure, you can "go your own way." But for fun and love, follow Christine!

[Learn more](#)



**Lindsey**

Lindsey, a member of the "Fleetwood Mac Litter," is one adorably bold kitten! "He is a cute, fluffy boy full of spunk," says his foster mom.

His favorite game is to chase balls or any noisy toy. He's also great at playing with little humans! But one of his foster mom's favorite things about him is his appearance. "When he was younger, his whiskers were chewed off!" she said. "They are growing back so cute." Is it time for your band to have a furry new member?

[Learn more](#)

## NEWS KIBBLE

🐱 It's spooky how popular our Caturdays are! Join us for the next installment 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Norwalk Easter Public Library.

🐱 We are grateful to Smitten Kitten for supporting us through TWO big events recently, the Kitten Party and Community Cat Show, with proceeds given to Whiskers tallying \$319 and \$1,327 respectively. And did you all ever show up for our fall garage sale, which earned Whiskers \$2,813!

🐱 Stop by Pizza Hut in Norwalk on Tuesday, Oct.



10, between 10 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. for "Paws and Pizza." Tell them Whiskers sent you, and 20 percent of the cost of your food will go back to Whiskers!

🐱 Has your kitty adopted from Whiskers TNR changed your life? Enter the Petco Love Story contest by Oct. 31 to possibly earn money for Whiskers TNR! Check out the [Love Story web site](#) to learn more and email [corissa@whiskerstnr.org](mailto:corissa@whiskerstnr.org) if you plan to enter.

**Pizza Hut** Put the FUN in FUNDRAISING



Show your support for  
WHISKERS TNR OF WARREN COUNTY

TUESDAY - October 10, 2023

Fundraiser Code: U5

To ensure your purchase counts toward your goal - Online orders enter this code in the coupon code section. In store & phone orders mention code upon ordering.

ORDER ONLINE @ PIZZAHUT.COM

Find participating locations at [Hutamerican.com/fundraisers](http://Hutamerican.com/fundraisers)

Fundraising event is only valid at that American-owned Pizza Hut locations on the day specified. Fundraiser is excluded from purchase of alcohol, tax, delivery fee tip and future orders. ©2023 Pizza Hut, LLC.



## Rhodes leads with 'contagious enthusiasm'



Activism comes naturally to Nicole Rhodes. But when the Norwalk woman spotted a stray cat that needed help, her work took a turn that surprised even Rhodes herself. She went from “cynical” about nonprofits to a busy volunteer and foster with Whiskers TNR of Warren County. In fact, Rhodes has been named the rescue’s Whiskers Warrior, its volunteer of the month, in October.

“Nicole has a contagious enthusiasm for Whiskers TNR,” said Corissa Arndt of Prole, the group’s founder. “She is quite innovative.”

“I love that Whiskers has given me faith that there are nonprofits out there who really are doing good in the world and are amazing financial stewards of any financial donation they receive,” added Rhodes.

That realization started to take shape in 2019 when Rhodes and her family began seeing a pregnant cat roaming their neck of the woods. She reached out to Whiskers TNR, hoping to help the mama-to-be. As it happened, neighbors took in the feline, but Rhodes was so impressed by what she’d learned from Arndt that she agreed to foster other kittens, including a sweet but wounded orange-and-white baby dubbed Gene.

“He was the softest, silliest kitten. I was falling in love,” Rhodes recalled. “By this point, we had known that this cat would be part of our forever family. Gene made me realize that giving love, however temporary it was, was also part of our forever life.”

In the past three years, Rhodes has fostered more than 50 cats or kittens until they were adopted, often with the help of her husband, Ryan, and their teenage kids, Alex and Alberta.

“I love that while my husband is a complete introvert, he is also the kitten whisperer, always finding a way to get the spiciest of kittens to be loveable little furballs,” Rhodes said.

They make time for fostering amid an already busy schedule. For 22 years, Rhodes has worked for Wells Fargo, specializing in keeping client information secure. She also advocates for several issues connected to social justice, and two of her favorite hobbies – reading and event planning – have even lent themselves to additional roles within Whiskers.



Rhodes has stepped up to fill the position of volunteer coordinator as well as take the lead in planning several events, including the upcoming Meow Mixer and Caturdays at Norwalk Easter Public Library.

In whatever capacity Rhodes is working for Whiskers, she's known for her signature wit, warmth and ability "to do great things," said Arndt. But, according to Rhodes, Whiskers has done great things for her, too.

"Fostering and volunteering have made me a better person and is a very rewarding experience for the whole family," she said. "I love the kitten snuggles, of course, and being able to plan and participate in events that help spread the word about our mission and find loving homes for all the felines that we help."

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## *Remembering our friend, Judy Corcoran*

Whiskers TNR lost a good friend with the passing of Judy Corcoran of Norwalk last month. We know that many of you counted her as a dear friend, too – someone who was incredibly interesting, accomplished and generous with her time and talents.

Once, as a young newspaper reporter, she'd interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The ultimate Bruce Springsteen fan, she'd seen The Boss in concert 52 times. Instead of winding down during retirement, she ramped up efforts to make her community a better place, like founding the Kathryn Project, which funds a student intern at Norwalk Easter Public Library.



And that's just a tiny sampling of what made Judy so unique – such a force for good. Here at Whiskers, we can add yet another story that is perhaps less known: When Judy became concerned about a homeless cat roaming her neighborhood, she reached out to us in 2020 to guide her through TNR (trap-neuter-return) to help him.

"As a trap-neuter-return cat, I assumed he'd 'return' to his roaming," Judy recounted to Whiskers in an email afterward. "The first day home he disappeared for 22 hours but to my surprise he returned to me and he's been here ever since."

In fact, S'mores, as the big, black-and-white fella came to be known, was soon spending time inside with Judy and her two housecats that she'd adopted from another rescue.

"When he goes out, he seems to understand he has curfew between 10 and 11 p.m.," Judy marveled in her email. "Then he takes on his overnight role, sleeping at the foot of the bed to guard me. ... He also cuddles catnip toys and I realize he's probably never had his own. He's as possessive of toys as he is of me."

And when Judy was diagnosed with cancer a year after taking in S'mores, his devotion never wavered – nor hers to him.

"In 2021 as I was beginning treatment, he was seriously injured, possibly attacked by wild animals, and spent several weeks at the vet. ... We two wounded buddies have comforted each other throughout the past 16 months," she wrote. "S'mores has been with me every day of this journey."

From all of us at Whiskers, may Judy's family and friends be comforted by memories of this extraordinary woman, and thank you for the memorial donations in Judy's name. May she inspire us all to do what we can for the S'mores that cross our paths.

**Whiskers TNR Of Warren County**

PO Box 54  
Martensdale, IA 50160  
515-428-CATS (2287)

Connect With Us



Whiskers TNR of Warren County | P.O. Box 54, Martensdale, IA 50160

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