

The Scratching Post

December 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.*

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A HEARTFELT
THANK YOU!



FROM YOUR
**MEOW
MIXER**
PLANNING COMMITTEE



We're over the moon with gratitude for everyone who attended our first ever Meow Mixer! Thanks to your generosity, we grossed \$13,544.31 to further our mission of reducing the cat population in Warren County through trap-neuter-return!

The night was filled with laughter, joy and purr-fect moments. From endless drinks to toe-tapping tunes, the company of great friends to the delectable charcuterie spread,

the evening was a whisker-licking success!

Each sip, each donation to the alumni photo contest, each bid in the silent auction, and each cuddle in the VIP Kitten Cuddle Room contributed to our cause, reminding us that together, we can make a difference. Your support fuels our passion and determination to create a better future for our feline friends in Warren County. Thank you for being a part of this purr-sistent journey toward a more compassionate world for all cats!



You're cordially invited to our first virtual meet-and-greet!

If you're considering adoption and would like to join an interactive video call, please join us on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. for this special all-new event.

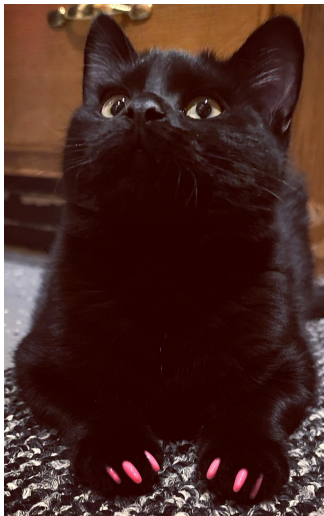


Cats participating in this video gathering are Bobby and Dionne (both pictured at left), Cyndi, Gloria, Janet, and Lita. You can get a preview of them at <https://whiskerstnr.org/available-cats/>. To learn more, please visit our [event page on Facebook](#).

If you would like a reminder to attend, email corissa@whiskerstnr.org and a calendar invitation will be sent your way. Otherwise, you can join through the below link at 7:30 p.m. that evening:

<https://meet.google.com/afo-hrcu-iug>

Wanted: A home for the holidays



Honeycrisp



Cupcake



Paula

Honeycrisp started out shy but has become the belle of the ball. "She purrs almost just by people looking at her." Honeycrisp (who is this month's "cover kitty" above) has even developed an adorable habit of "plooping" to the ground for belly rubs when she notices a person noticing her. And does this ebony girl ever turn heads – "she's getting floofier by the day!" Honeycrisp will probably need a little time to settle into her forever home, but then she'll provide her family a bumper crop of love.

Cupcake lives up to every ounce of sweetness her name implies. "She prefers to be with cats or people," says her foster mom. "She loves to be held and curl up in your lap to sleep." Cupcake even gives kisses! But when it's playtime? This cuddler throws it into high gear! "We call her Speed Racer for her fast zoomies! She is curious and explores, climbs, runs and purrs like a motorboat. Like her Hostess Cupcake counterpart, Cupcake has swirls of black and white delight!"

As part of the "80s Music Legends" crew, Paula had a rough start in life. But now this sweet kitten named after Paula Abdul is "friendly and loves attention," says her foster mom. She loves to bat at a scratching post that has dangling ribbons, snooze adorably between her foster mom's feet and hone her talent as a lap cat. "She purrs so loud and loves to be petted." In fact, it's thought that easygoing Paula would thrive in any loving home. Can she be "forever your girl"?

[Learn more](#)

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NEWS KIBBLE

*All the important bits
you need to know!*

🐱 Considering joining the Whiskers team? If you have a background in fundraising, or an interest to learn, we need YOU! Please contact corissa@whiskerstnr.org to learn more about this important new volunteer position.

🐱 Don't miss our next edition of Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Norwalk Easter Public Library. Meet some of our cutest adoptables and learn more about Whiskers TNR!

🐱 If you'd like to boost your knowledge to help cats, there are a couple of virtually purrfect opportunities coming up: a **TNR workshop** and an **online cat conference**, both from our friends at the Community Cats Podcast.



No foster too tricky for 'always positive' Castro

Whiskers TNR's latest volunteer of the month



has such a knack for fostering that one of her feline wards made a bold move, literally, to become a permanent part of her family.

But only year or so ago, Andrea Castro of Norwalk was new to Whiskers TNR of Warren County. When Castro attended Caturday, a monthly Whiskers event at Norwalk Easter Public Library, in September 2022, all that changed. She was so intrigued by what she learned from the volunteers there – and smitten with the adoptables mingling with attendees – that she filled out an application on the spot to help.

“I’m impressed by Andrea’s desire to get involved,” said Corissa Arndt, who founded Whiskers. “This was demonstrated by her initially attending a Caturday and from there completing the foster application. Shortly thereafter, she had Whiskers kitties in her

home.”

And not necessarily the easiest cases. Older cat or kitten, tame or a tad spicy, healthy or battling back from the brink – Castro cheerfully made a place for them with her family.

“I know there are hard days with fostering – hissing, running and hiding when it is time to get in a carrier and go to the vet, having to give medications, et cetera – but I have never once heard a complaint from Andrea,” Arndt said.

According to Castro, it’s been a labor of love. She converted part of her home office into a foster room, so “kittens are my office mates” as she works from home as an Alerus 401k administrator. But she’s enjoyed finding connection with the people of Whiskers TNR, too.

“I have been blown away by the volunteers – so many kind people who work hard and go above and beyond for cats,” she said. “I have enjoyed getting to know the people as much as I have fostering the kittens.”

Castro’s time with the nonprofit is winding down since she and her family are moving to St. Louis, but it was important to Arndt to recognize her as a Whiskers Warrior, or volunteer of the month, before she goes.

“Since beginning foster duties, she has fostered 16 cats. That’s impressive,” said Arndt. “Andrea, thank you for acting in a contributing way when you became aware of the need for more foster homes. Thank you for always remaining positive through the ups and downs that come with fostering.”

And Castro isn’t done yet. She hopes to help a St. Louis rescue once she gets settled. But she’ll have two “souvenirs” to remind her of how she started on this journey: Judy and Charlotte, her two final fosters with Whiskers that the Castro family decided to adopt.

Or, in Charlotte’s case, was it the cat who decided? The tortoiseshell beauty, who’d been among the cats at Whiskers waiting the longest for a forever home, managed to hitch a ride to the Castros’ new abode by stowing away in a sofa in the moving van.

“We had been going back and forth about adopting Charlotte,” Castro mused, “so I guess she decided she was going to make the decision for us!”

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