



The Scratching Post

January 2024

*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](#)

New year, new forever home?



Annie

Annie has proven during her young life that she's a lovable fighter. First, she was one of more than 40 cats and kittens that Whiskers helped at one property alone. And now she's facing surgery to remove one of her eyes after being diagnosed with a mycoplasma infection. (The above photo was taken during better days. But check out her recent "cover cat" spread at the top of the page!) But once she recovers, sweet Annie will be back on track to find the forever home she so deserves!

[Learn more](#)

Diana

Diana is "fearless and fun," just like her namesake, the legendary Diana Ross. This little diva has been known to comically gallop through the house during playtime and leap to impressively high windowsills because "there's ain't no mountain high enough" to keep her from sunning herself. But when she's ready to get her beauty rest, there's also nothing that could keep Diana from snuggling on her person's lap. Her foster mom thinks she'll bring "endless love" and hours of entertainment to her forever home.

[Learn more](#)

Bobby

Bobby may have a solid gold future now, but just a few months ago he arrived from a large outdoor colony dangerously ill. "We have worked very hard to get Bobby to this point," says his foster dad. "He has shown he is a survivor." In fact, now Bobby is ready to find fame in a forever home. "He is a very sweet boy that loves to play." He also especially loves wet food and "is always waiting for the sound of the can opening." With his friendly, outgoing nature, it's thought that Bobby would thrive in nearly any loving home.

[Learn more](#)



That's right: We said "kitten yoga!" Join us for this all-new event 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Indianola Wellness Campus. All are welcome, but there are only 30 spots total available. [Register here at the IWC website](#). Cost is \$10 for IWC members or \$15 for non-members.

Whiskers will receive a portion of the proceeds, and a donation drive will be held in conjunction with the class. Most-requested items include Tide Power Pods Detergent (Hygienic Clean 10x Duty), Bounce pet hair and lint guard mega sheets (dryer sheets), America's Choice bedding pellets (found in the livestock bedding section at Theisen's), and Clorox splash-less bleach (lavender). Monetary donations are also welcome.

While onsite adoptions won't be available, all the feline participants will be current adoptables from Whiskers. So, your downward dog just might result in finding your purr-fect cat!

NEWS KIBBLE

All the important bits you need to know!

🐱 As we step into 2024, we want to say THANK YOU for making our work in 2023 possible! Whiskers completed 171 adoptions and 267 spays/neuters.

🐱 Don't miss our next edition of Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Norwalk Easter Public Library. Meet some of our cutest adoptables and learn more about Whiskers TNR!



Local teen helps Whiskers cats for Eagle Scout project

Special thanks to Erick Randall for building six cat shelters! A member of Boy Scout Troop #301 in Norwalk, he made them as part of his Eagle Scout project and donated them to Whiskers to distribute to our caretakers of outdoor cats.

To learn more about looking out for cats in the winter, including how to make your own shelter, check out [this great guide](#) from our friends at Alley Cat Allies.



Miller 'can keep her cool in any situation'

Kait Miller manages to make volunteer work look like a party.

The Des Moines woman was named Whiskers TNR's Whiskers Warrior, its volunteer of the month, for January. According to Nicole Rhodes of Norwalk, the nonprofit's volunteer coordinator, Miller began helping this past year but already has found her niche.

"Kait is the type of person who seemingly can keep her cool in any situation but also gets the job done," said Rhodes. "She makes things seem effortless."

Miller was particularly instrumental at



this past November's Meow Mixer, an evening soiree held at St. James Celebrations near Indianola. Open to the community, it drew a crowd eager to raise funds for Whiskers TNR as well as celebrate the work of its volunteers and supporters.

Not only did Miller serve on the planning committee, she rolled up her sleeves at the event itself so that other volunteers could simply enjoy the night out.

"During the Meow Mixer, we knew we had some very important – and some less glamorous – jobs to fulfill. Kait offered to step in to handle the merchandise and auction table with another unofficial volunteer, Aryn Ping. They immediately clicked and handled

that very busy table so well," Rhodes recalled.

Miller has also been a friendly face at other Whiskers events, including Saturday at Norwalk Easter Public Library or the nonprofit's booth at the Great Iowa Pet Expo. Again and again, Rhodes has witnessed Miller be "so friendly, helpful and welcoming to everyone."

But then, planning and carrying out events – and even handling merchandise – is very much in Miller's wheelhouse. Her day job is an event gifting buyer with ITA Group in Des Moines, which just might sound like a dream job to fans of travel and shopping.

"One of the many things ITA does is incentive travel events for companies all over the world," Miller explained. "My job is to source all the guest gifts or set up gifting boutiques for these events."

When back at home, Miller sums up her hobbies as "cocktails, cooking and Costco" – plus doting on her cats, Frank and Ozzy. Miller adopted the latter from Whiskers this past October after falling for her at the Great Iowa Pet Expo.

"Ozzy used her adorable face and charm to force me into submitting the adoption application!" Miller joked.

"I love supporting a local grassroots organization that genuinely wants to work to solve a problem in our community," she added. "I love working with people who want to do the same."

A Happy Tail: Treasure, 'truly a blessing'

If you've followed Whiskers long, you probably remember Treasure's heartbreaking beginning: She was found in the bottom of an empty trash bin – bone thin, filthy and covered in wounds.

So, we're *thrilled* to share this "Happy Tail" update:

Treasure has settled into a home of her own with people who love to spoil her! According to her adopter, Arley Holtropp, "Treasure is truly a blessing and brings so much love, cuddles and fun to our family."

The Holtropps had been looking for a companion for their first cat that they'd adopted a few years ago. Treasure's similar coat and markings made her seem like an uncanny fit – and she was. Treasure loves to "talk" with her people and cuddle with them on the couch in front of the



Thank you, Arley, for giving Treasure the

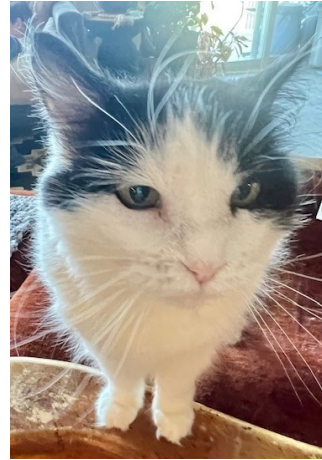
fireplace. She also gravitates to snuggly spots in human beds or very own special bed by a window.

“She takes every chance she can get to sit close and give us kisses to show her love,” said Holtropp.

To others considering adoption, Holtropp encourages them to consider adult cats, who tend to be adopted less quickly than kittens. She said that Treasure is proof of how older felines can be integrated into a home – and how much loyalty and love they have to give.

“Older cats can adjust just as well as kittens and you will truly feel their love, affection and appreciation,” Holtropp said. “Don’t hesitate to give any cat the happiness and love they may not have had their entire life.”

loving home she so deserves!



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