



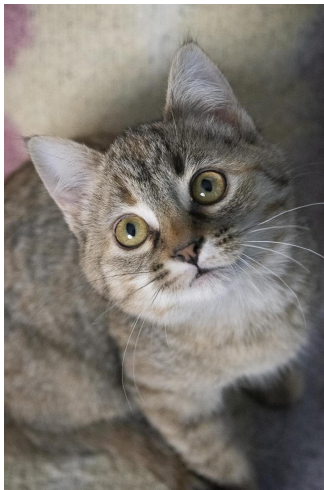
The Scratching Post

February 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](#)

We have your feline Valentine!



Sansa

Sansa, who is this month's



Dionne

"Dionne is friendly to



Bobby

"Bobby does like to be where

"cover cat" above, is a sweetie pie," says her foster mom. "She loves to be pet and held. Sansa is a people 'person' and will watch my every move." That's especially true if she sees an opportunity to get her favorite chin scratches or bestow a whiskered kiss! "Named for a heroine on Game of Thrones, Sansa would thrive in almost any loving kingdom and doesn't back down from a playful joust with her sisters. But more than anything, she's looking for a human subject or royally kind family to call her very own.

everyone and will come up to you for pets," says her foster mom. "She loves to play with other kitties." And it turns out that she is as adventurous as she is social! She loves to hang out on the top of upper kitchen cupboards, on the back of the couch (preferably right behind her person's head) and anywhere involving water. "If the faucet is on, she wants to check it out. She loves playing with ice cubes and tries to chew on my wet hair sometimes or will lay on it if she can." Will her greatest adventure lead to a forever home with you?

everyone else is and loves all the animals," says his foster mom. "He's always looking for a play or nap buddy. Bobby is good with being held and will often lay on your chest or right beside you for pets." He'd be happiest with a feline buddy to show him the ropes – especially if they lead to his favorite wand and spring toys and wet food. "He goes crazy for his wet food! He will meow and dance circles while you're preparing it." And, believe us, it's a joy to see this handsome tuxedo boy happy. "He has THE most adorable rumbly purr!"

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)



Put the FUN in FUNDRAISING



Show your support for
WHISKERS TNR OF WARREN COUNTY
TUESDAY – February 13, 2024

Fundraiser Code: RY

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](https://hutamerican.com/fundraisers)

Fundraising event is only valid at Hut 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.

NEWS KIBBLE

All the important bits you need to know!

🐱 The ever-popular Caturday is back Saturday, Feb. 10, at Norwalk Easter Public Library! Join us to meet some of our sweetest adoptables, ask our volunteers your burning questions and, special this month, enjoy an activity on the theme of "Crafty Cats"!

🐱 As if you need an excuse to eat pizza! But just in case you do, bring your appetite on Tuesday, Feb. 13, when Pizza Hut and Whiskers will collaborate for a very tasty fundraiser. Order in person or online at the Norwalk location, or **online at others in the Flynn Iowa Region**. Just be sure to use the code RY to make the pie count!

🐱 Save the date for Whiskers TNR night at the Iowa Wolves on Wednesday, March 13! There will be a supply drive, and \$10 spent on every ticket will go toward Whiskers. Find more information or snag tickets on

the [event page online](#).



🐱 Did you know that February is National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month? We're thankful that our friends at Grand Avenue Veterinary Hospital in West Des Moines are planning to collect financial donations on our behalf. Visit their amazing clinic at 312 Grand Ave. or [donate online here](#).

***Is your ex
the worst?
'Fix 'Em
Good' this
Valentine's Day to benefit Whiskers!***



Valentine's Day may be for lovers, but we have a little something for the prickly and jaded: Our brand new "Fix 'Em Good" fundraiser. Throughout the month of February, if you donate \$50, we'll name one of our TNR kitties after your ex before it heads into spay or neuter surgery.

Just think of all the possibilities: Ex-boyfriends, girlfriends, bosses, roommates, neighbors. ... We all know someone who just shouldn't procreate, right? We won't have enough spay/neuter surgeries to give everyone their sweet revenge at once but know that vengeance will be yours at some point in 2024. You'll even get to see your ex's kitty namesake as a souvenir when we post all their mugshots online. Not only will it be soothingly cathartic for you, it'll be payback for a great cause since TNR (trap-neuter-return) gives outdoor cats healthier, happier lives and stops their endless cycle of reproduction. Get started by [donating online here](#).

So, what do you say? For less than what you'd pay for a dozen roses – and with a fraction of the effort that you wasted on that miserable relationship – this Valentine's Day you can "Fix 'Em Good."



Wolfe is a 'secret weapon' for helping cats in need



She's known as a "secret weapon" at the veterinary clinics she manages, and her fellow volunteers at Whiskers TNR of Warren County tend to agree.

Tracy Wolfe of Macksburg has been named our latest Whiskers Warrior, or volunteer of the month, for her dedication to fostering, assisting at vaccination events and seeing to it that Whiskers TNR's cats receive the best possible medical care.

"Tracy seems to have an endless amount of compassion, leadership and work ethic to be the best foster and contact she can be," said Leif Strandkov of Des Moines, a fellow volunteer. "Her many

years of experience allow her to keep a cool head in tough situations, especially if there are kitties with special needs."

But Wolfe is quick to add that she doesn't do it alone. She has a "super awesome team" at both clinics that she oversees, Animal Medical Clinic of Merle Hay and Animal Care Clinic West and Metro Cat Hospital. She began working there 15 years ago as a tech and moved her way up to office manager. But she's eager to step away from the likes of payroll or budgeting if there's a cat who needs her hands-on expertise.

"I always take time to get back to check on staff and the animals," Wolfe said. "My favorite is when they aren't able to get a tough catheter or blood draw and they call me in as 'their secret weapon.' I must keep my skills honed!"

Wolfe has come to the rescue for some of Whiskers TNR's toughest cases, including Clem, a fluffy orange kitten found in Warren County with severe frostbite in 2021 that led to the amputation of two legs, his tail and multiple toes. Not only did the little guy survive under Wolfe's watchful eye, he went on to find a loving home with a veterinarian, his story winning \$6,000 for Whiskers TNR in the Petco Love Story national contest later that year.

"I love getting to meet all of the different cats. They all have their own personalities, just like people," said Wolfe. "You get to know them and can match them to the family that would be best for them."

Strandkov and his wife, Kelsey, have seen the effects of Wolfe's work firsthand. Not only do the couple volunteer for Whiskers, they adopted their beloved orange tabby, Franklin, from the nonprofit.

"Tracy fostered our cat, Franklin, and we can tell he had an amazing time with her," Strandkov said. "When we picked him up from the vet office she was at, he was so relaxed and well taken care of and felt so safe in her care that he started purring in the car ride home, and he hasn't stopped since!"

Macksburg's love of animals extends to the horses, dogs and goats on her family's farm as well, and she enjoys watching her kids participate in 4-H, archery and soccer. She's also been known to hit the road when she can, whether on a bike among friends or traveling the world with her husband.

But the team at Whiskers TNR is grateful her path keeps leading her back to helping cats in need.

“Tracy is always willing to help her little ones in any way she can. Her ability to find the right spot for the right kitty is unparalleled,” Strandskov said. “Tracy, you are an invaluable member of Whiskers TNR, and we appreciate everything you do for the animals. You have a big heart and a bright spirit.”

A Happy Tail: Gigi, the Velcro cat!

A portion of Gigi's adoption story, as told by her adopter, Sophia. Find the full version on [our Facebook page](#).

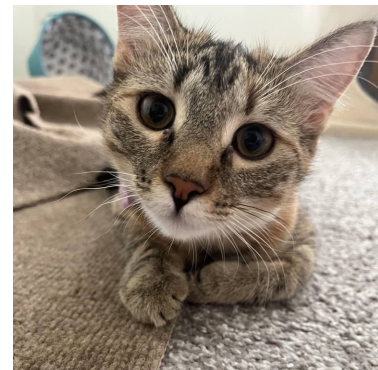
I decided to adopt from Whiskers TNR because my first cat Theo needed a companion who was also around his age and could match his energy. While I was looking at Whiskers website I found Gigi (formerly Emily). I knew then that little Gigi would be a good fit for my family.

Meeting her big brother Theo was an adventure for me and for them (my first time being a fur mom)! She didn't back down when Theo was trying to establish dominance over her. She's a fighter and I love her for that! Her foster mom helped me along the way and gave me tons of advice which was so helpful!

I would describe Gigi as an extrovert with those whom she's comfortable, and an introvert towards strangers. She sets her boundaries and would let you know if you cross it. But as her mom, she lets me give her more kisses than she would like -- haha! Having Gigi around brings me so much joy! She's my little Velcro cat! She taught me to be more patient, understanding, and showed me a different kind of love that you could only have as a pet owner.



Thank you, Sophia, for giving Gigi the loving home she so deserves!



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