



# The Scratching Post

March 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](#)

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*We're ready to be adopted,  
and that's no blarney!*



## Cupcake

Cupcake lives up to every ounce of sweetness that her name implies. "She loves to be held and curl up in your lap to sleep," says her foster mom. But when playtime comes? This cuddle bug throws it into high gear! "We call her Speed Racer for her fast zoomies! She explores, climbs, runs and purrs like a motorboat." But one of her foster mom's very favorite things about Cupcake is her unique black and white markings, including a "yin yang chin" and white stripe down her belly. "Like her Hostess Cupcake counterpart, Cupcake has swirls of black and white delight!"

[Learn more](#)

## Rita

Rita's namesake, the legendary Rita Hayworth, was known for her pinups. But Rita the kitten (who is also this month's "cover cat" above)? A rambunctious little "purr machine" who is gorgeous but certainly not watching her figure! "Rita often has an 'avocado belly,' which tells me this girl likes to eat," laughs her foster mom. Rita loves playing with spring toys, sparkle balls and a wool cat cave, but it's her reaction to seeing humans that's the real charmer. "I'm always greeted with an incredibly energetic and eager kitten each time I visit. She is al cuddle bug and purr machine."

[Learn more](#)

## Bobby

Bobby is social butterfly! "He does like to be where 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](#)

## NEWS KIBBLE

*All the important bits you need to know!*


🐱 The ever-popular Caturday is back Saturday, March 9, at Norwalk Easter Public Library! Join us to meet some of our cutest adoptables, ask our volunteers your burning questions and, special this month, enjoy a cup of cocoa with this month's special "Cocoa and Cats" theme.

🐱 It's not too late to sign up for our free and reduced-cost vaccine and microchip clinic Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10! Reserve your spot now for a free distemper shot administered by veterinary volunteers, or a rabies vaccine or microchip for \$10 each. [Learn more or sign up here](#), making sure to specify which services you'd like. Thanks to our volunteers and Petco Love for making this happen!

🐱 Save the date for Whiskers TNR night at the Iowa





 Do you have a giant heart for cats in need? We'd love for you to become one of our first TNR Titans! With this new program, you sign up to become a monthly financial donor with all funds going to the day-to-day needs of cats in Whiskers TNR's care. Our goal is to enlist the first two 32 Titans by the beginning of spring (otherwise known as kitten season!) on March 19. Check out [our giving page](#) to learn more.



# Carolyn, Watson & Asher



Winner

Have you heard the big news? Last month, Whiskers TNR won \$10,000 in the Petco Love Story contest! Carolyn Camery shared her incredibly moving story of how Watson and Asher, the two cats she adopted from Whiskers, have helped her cope with multiple sclerosis. Her entry was picked from thousands nationwide! We are so grateful to her, her husband, Brent, and to Petco Love, which has now recognized Whiskers TNR four times in the annual Love Story contest! Watch Carolyn's [submission here](#) as well as a [video of our celebration](#) at the Clive Petco.



## Rhodes quietly moves mountains for Whiskers

As it turns out, not all volunteer gigs at a cat rescue involve kitten snuggles. Amber Rhodes steps up for the likes of phone calls and paperwork – not soft and furry, but important nonetheless.

That's why the Des Moines woman was selected as Whiskers TNR of Warren County's Whiskers



Warrior, or volunteer of the month, for March.

“Amber has always had compassion for animals and their welfare. Not only is she a great sister-in-law,” said Nicole Rhodes of Norwalk, the nonprofit’s volunteer coordinator, “but she’s a valued and quiet member of the Whiskers team.”

In fact, Amber was one of the first volunteers to take on administrative duties to ease the workload of Whiskers TNR’s founder, Corissa Arndt of Prole. Amber’s primary role is to dig into adoption applications, checking veterinary and personal references and reviewing rental policies regarding pets when applicable.

“Amber is very thorough in her documentation and checks. This makes it much easier to select the best candidate for adoption,” said Nicole. “She has great follow-up and follow-through when she can’t get ahold of someone right away.”

Organization and communication skills are key to her day jobs, too – even when they happen by the light of the moon. Amber works as an overnight nursing supervisor at a local hospital and also teaches part-time for DMACC’s nurse aid program. She unwinds from it all by reading, watching “Golden Girls” reruns, spending time with her friends or goddaughter, sampling new restaurants or doting on her own cats, Quincy and Amelia.

“I enjoy volunteering at Whiskers because I have loved cats my whole life, and I want to make sure they all get the best homes possible – even though I deep down want to bring them all home with me!” she said. “It makes me happy to know that each cat will be given the best possible chance at a happy and healthy life, thanks to the work all the volunteers at Whiskers do.”

In fact, Amber’s dedication to Whiskers goes well beyond her regular duties. Whether it’s a cat that needs a ride to the vet, or a carload of donations bound for the Whiskers fundraiser garage sale, Amber is always at the ready to pitch in behind the scenes.

“Amber, thank you for consistently stepping to the plate and doing such important administrative work,” Nicole said. “We have a lot of people who come in seeking volunteer work that allows lots of kitten snuggles, but you understand the other hard work that needs to be done behind the scenes to get cats into homes that are safe and secure.”

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**Whiskers TNR Of Warren County**  
PO Box 54  
Martensdale, IA 50160  
515-428-CATS (2287)

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