

Spring 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

# Washington Heights Cat Colony



## ASPCA Spay Day a Success

Each month, the ASPCA holds a special "Sunday Spay Day" devoted exclusively to TNR of feral cats in New York City. For these special Sunday Spay Days, the ASPCA closes the Berg Memorial Animal Hospital on 92<sup>nd</sup> Street to the general public for the day and turns the hospital into a giant TNR clinic just for feral and

street cats. With the help of numerous volunteer veterinarians, vet techs, and TNR groups from all over the city, the goal each month is to spay/neuter at least 100 feral cats in a single day.

To meet this ambitious goal, ASPCA administrative coordinator Kimberly Smith reaches out in advance to local, certified TNR groups like WaHi Cats and asks these selected participants to guarantee they can each bring a minimum of 10 cats on the appointed day.

Sunday, March 14 was the most recent "Spay Day," and when WaHi Cats got Kimberly's call, we sprang into action. The weather that week was against us—a torrential rainstorm combined with record high winds made trapping difficult. (Cats really do hate being out in the rain!)

(Continues on page 8)



Traps set up in a WaHi feral cat "hot spot"

## Featured Adoptable Cat: Willy

Willy was abandoned in a park in upper Manhattan. When a feeder at the park found him, Willy was so starving and emaciated that his ribs and hips were jutting out. Willy also had scratches and cuts all over his face, ears, and nose from other kitties beating him up as he tried to survive and scavenge for food. Even so, he would come right out of the rock he was hiding in and rub on his feeder and devour the food she brought to him. She was even able to put him right in a carrier and bring him to us. When Willy first came in, the vet estimated he was only half the weight he should be. Now, he is



Willy

plump and sleek, all his scratches have healed, and he has a perfectly clean bill of health. As a result of his ordeal, Willy is shy and hesitant around new people, and he takes a while to trust anyone he doesn't know. But he has made a remarkable recovery in the past 2 months! He now loves to play and will eat out of his foster mommy's hand! After all he has been through, Willy would do best in a home with the patience to let him learn to trust a new family. Won't you give this lovely cat the forever home he deserves?

For more info on Willy please contact [sherri@wahicats.org](mailto:sherri@wahicats.org)

## What is TNR (trap-neuter-return)?

TNR is a way to reduce unwanted feral cat populations by sterilizing cats so they cannot reproduce. TNR, when accompanied by ongoing management of feral cat colonies, is a proven, effective, and humane method of controlling local cat populations.

Feral cats are trapped and taken to participating veterinary clinics where they are sterilized, vaccinated and "ear tipped" so they can be identified as part of a managed colony. Healthy adult cats are returned to their colonies with shelter, a feeding station, and volunteers who provide ongoing care. Kittens are socialized and adopted out.



Sterilization helps make cats better "community citizens" by reducing or eliminating the yowling, fighting, spraying, and wandering associated with mating. TNR also makes colonies themselves more stable, and decreases the number of new cats that will move into a neighborhood. Over time, managed colonies gradually diminish in size. And TNR saves money. It can cost the city up to \$250 to pick up, house and euthanize one homeless cat. For the same price, a TNR program can spay/neuter five cats.

Under the umbrella of the Mayor's Alliance for Animals and the member organizations of the NYC Feral Cat Council (including the ASPCA, Humane Society of NY, and Neighborhood Cats), TNR is now practiced in neighborhoods all over New York City. Hundreds of volunteers working in neighborhoods across New York have made NYC a model for TNR efforts nationwide.

## A Letter from the President



Dear Friends of WaHi Cats—

Welcome to the first official WaHi Cats newsletter! We are so excited to finally share all the wonderful news of our organization with you. For this inaugural letter, I'd like to share with you how I personally got involved in TNR. My hope is that this story will inspire you to change your own neighborhood for the better, and give you the confidence to know that it really can be done! My story is a pretty common one that is shared by many who have joined the TNR movement.

Several years ago, I moved into a new apartment in Washington Heights. In my basement, I noticed a beautiful momma cat fiercely guarding her little kittens from me and anyone else who would approach. This feline family was huddled pathetically under a bag of trash. Seeing them broke my heart, but I didn't know what to do. At the time, I didn't know anything about TNR, so I felt helpless.

I watched as the kittens turned into beautiful "alleycats" and I worried about their safety—worries that only increased as additional litters were born. I told my animal loving mother (yes I totally get it from her!) about the situation, and she helped me find the website of Alley Cat Allies, the national TNR resource center. This is where I learned that there is an effective and humane way to deal with feral cats and kittens like the ones living behind my building. Soon after, I sought out the TNR courses offered at the ASPCA by a group in New York City called Neighborhood Cats. There, I learned about trapping, neutering, and managing a feral cat colony. I was inspired, yet the honest truth is that even after taking the TNR course, I felt a little overwhelmed, alone, and not sure how to begin such a big project all by myself.

A few days later, my husband was out walking our dog, and he noticed that someone had put up a little sign near our cats' "home alley," giving a phone number and asking if there was anyone around who was interested in helping to TNR these cats. I was thrilled and called immediately, as did several other people in the neighborhood. We realized that we were not alone at all! Together, we did our first trappings, and over the course of a few months, we TNR-ed all 18 cats living behind our buildings. It was wonderful to see the kitties in our colony thrive, put on weight, look shiny and healthy, and begin to respond to the regular feeders who care for them daily. In the four years since that first trapping, no new litters of kittens have been born in our home alley. And our building supers are happy because the area is now clean and quiet—there no more cat fights keeping residents awake at night, and the cats no longer break into the garbage for food.

After seeing this success firsthand, we decided to branch outside of our own colony to help other people and cats in the Washington heights area. And so...Washington Heights Cat Colony was born! Affectionately known around the neighborhood as "WaHi Cats," we became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2008. We now provide trapping assistance, advice, and support to colonies and caretakers all over northern Manhattan. This would not have been possible without the tireless work of ALL of our volunteers, board members, donors, fosters, adopters, kitties, animal-lovers, the ASPCA, The Mayor's Alliance for Animals, Uptown Veterinary Associates, Spoiled Brats Pet Supply, Jamie Lehman (Bronx Tails Rescue), Inma Serrano (The Hats for Cats Project), Neighborhood Cats, Alley Cat Allies, and concerned residents in our neighborhood and beyond!

So from the bottom of our hearts...thank you! We couldn't do what we do for the cats without you.  
With gratitude,

***Sherri Laurence***

President, Washington Heights Cat Colony

For more information about TNR and getting started in your own neighborhood, please visit [www.neighborhoodcats.org](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org) or [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)

*It's worth the effort, even one kitty at a time!*

### Officers

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Sherri Laurence, President  
Ola A. May, Vice President & Volunteer Coordinator  
Barry Hudson, Secretary & Website Designer  
Trish Bogle, Treasurer & Director of Development

[www.wahicats.org](http://www.wahicats.org)

## WaHi Cats on the Web: Become a Fan on Facebook!

WaHi Cats is on the web. In addition to our website [www.wahicats.org](http://www.wahicats.org), we now have a Facebook page.

Our page, "Washington Heights Cat Colony" has regular updates about our work in the neighborhood, our cats and kittens avail-



able for adoption, and photos of our volunteers' own pets. Become a fan of Washington Heights Cat Colony, and invite your friends. If you've adopted from WaHi Cats, post a photo of your kitty and say "hi."

We'd love to hear from you.

## Another Way to Help: Become a Monthly Donor through Network for Good

One of the hardest parts of planning large TNR projects is funding. Knowing how much money there is to work with from month-to-month is a challenge for many small nonprofits. For TNR groups, a lot of big donations one month means a lot of cats can be helped. No donations the next month means important TNR projects get put on hold until funds can be raised. Many WaHi Cats donors are stepping up to help solve this problem by becoming regular monthly givers.

As little as \$5 or \$10 a month, automatically charged to a credit card as a recurring donation, makes a huge difference—because with monthly giving, that's fund-

ing WaHi Cats can count on when planning TNR projects. To join the list of WaHi Cats monthly supporters, go to [www.wahicats.org](http://www.wahicats.org) and click the **Network for Good** button on the homepage. When filling out the Network for Good form, choose "recurring monthly donation."

Donors can also choose to dedicate their monthly donation to particular projects, or donate in honor of a special person or pet.



## iGive: An Easy Way to Help WaHi Cats Every Time You Shop Online

If you do a lot of your shopping online (you know who you are!), iGive is a great, easy way to support WaHi Cats, and it costs you absolutely nothing. Here's how it works: iGive automatically generates donations to your favorite charity every time you shop or search online. When you register with iGive, you simply continue to shop at the same brand name online stores you already do (including EBay, Gap, Amazon.com, Staples, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Home Depot, and more), and every online merchant you shop with donates a percentage of your purchase to your chosen charity! Choose **Washington Heights Cat**

**Colony** as your charity, and the iGive donations are sent directly to WaHi Cats every month. Plus, when you shop within 45 days of signing up, iGive donates an extra \$5 to your cause. All you have to do is register, and those pennies start piling up for the cats. We are encouraging all our loyal WaHi Cats supporters to sign up for iGive to help us help more cats. To sign up, go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and select "Washington Heights Cat Colony" as your cause. Or, just go to our website, [www.wahicats.org](http://www.wahicats.org), and click the iGive button on our homepage.



## How Anyone Reading this Newsletter Can Help WaHi Cats This Year:

### **Donate**

Donations are always needed! You can donate by going to the [wahicats.org](http://wahicats.org) website and clicking the "Donate" tab. For additional information about planned or monthly giving, please contact [trish@wahicats.org](mailto:trish@wahicats.org)

### **Volunteer**

The Washington Heights Cat Colony always needs volunteers! Our local outdoor kitties require lots of love, time, and attention, and they appreciate whatever help you can give them.

Remember, there are many ways to help that you might not even think of at first. By bringing whatever special skills you have to the table, you do your part to aid the cats. For instance, volunteers helped to create the WaHi Cats logo, the website, note cards, flyers and brochures. Volunteers also organized bake sales, provided legal services, offered book-keeping assistance, and helped with fundraising and mailings. What special talent can you offer the kitties?

To volunteer, or learn more about the many ways to help the cats, contact: [ola@wahicats.org](mailto:ola@wahicats.org)

### **Foster**

The Washington Heights Cat Colony is always looking for people to foster adoptable cats and kittens for a few weeks until they can be placed in "forever homes." If you would like to temporarily foster a cat in need, or socialize a kitten contact: [sherri@wahicats.org](mailto:sherri@wahicats.org)

### **Adopt**

There is no greater gift than to give a cat in need a "forever home." For a list of adoptable cats currently seeking a forever home with the right person, please visit the WHCC website at [www.wahicats.org](http://www.wahicats.org) or see our listings on Petfinder at: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NY818.html>

## Daring Rescues: Carrot and Quincy



### QUINCY

How far would you go to rescue a cat? For WaHi Cats President Sherri Laurence, risking life and limb has become part of the job. Last fall, Sherri got a call that a fluffy orange kitty

was trapped on a narrow ledge 3 stories up, along the edge of Jay Hood Wright Park. Sherri went to the park, and saw that Quincy was indeed trapped with no way down. She learned from neighbors that Quincy had been out on the ledge in the cold with no food or water for two days already. By the time Sherri saw him, Quincy was weak and terrified; he was trembling harder than any cat Sherri had ever seen. Realizing that the situation was urgent, but seeing the danger involved in climbing onto a 6-inch wide ledge herself, Sherri decided to call a few different city agencies first to ask for help. When none were willing to assist, Sherri made the decision to rescue Quincy on her own. She climbed over the park fencing and out onto the ledge, carefully eyeing the 3 story drop below. Gripping the fence to keep from falling, she inched her way towards the shivering kitty with a cat carrier. Quincy watched her with wide, desperate eyes the entire time, but he was paralyzed by fear and unwilling to walk toward the carrier to safety.

Sherri hunkered down and propped the carrier up on one knee. While holding the fence with one hand, she kept her other hand on the door of the carrier in case Quincy actually went in. Then she waited. And waited. For 2 hours, Sherri stayed on the ledge with Quincy urging him to come to her. By using a long stick, she was eventually able to maneuver Quincy toward her, and he finally went in the carrier! A few concerned local residents helped get the carrier with Quincy inside back over the fence. Although he was safe at last, a veterinary exam that followed revealed that beautiful Quincy had been abused, neglected, and starved by his previous owners.

Quincy is now in foster care with a kind neighborhood resident named Lenore, who is helping him learn to trust humans again while he waits for his "forever

home." Quincy now seeks a loving, patient home without young children. He's a gorgeous boy who deserves a second chance!

### CARROT

All kittens are cute, but some are truly special. Carrot is one of the greats. His



story, which was posted on Petfinder, received more "hits" than any other cat ever rescued by WaHi Cats. Even now, we continue to receive inquires about him! For all the Carrot fans out there—here is his story and the happy ending.

In February, tiny Carrot was rescued from underneath a NYC sidewalk grate where he was trapped and was succumbing to hypothermia in 16 degree weather. WaHi Cats Vice President Ola A. May heard his cries and spent several hours working to open the grate and rescue him as his meowing became more desperate and his shivering more violent. When the grate was finally opened, Carrot jumped into Ola's arms and burrowed into her coat for warmth. He hasn't stopped purring since. He's a loving little motorboat!

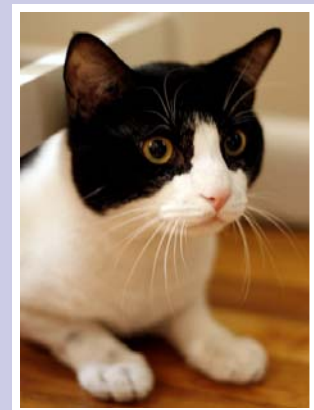
Carrot got a clean bill of health from the vet and went to a foster home with local residents and WaHi Cats volunteers, Gail & Joe, to await adoption. But it turned out that this foster home was actually a "forever home"! After just one week, Gail and Joe fell madly in love with Carrot and asked to adopt him themselves. Congratulations to Carrot and his new family!

### WaHi Cats Needs Fosters!

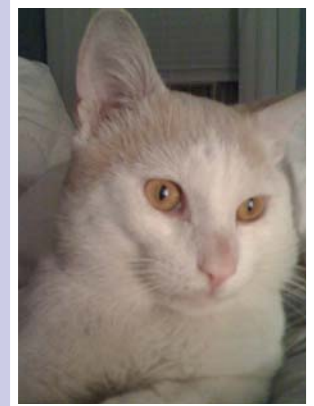
When WaHi Cats finds a tame stray or young kitten in the course of TNR-ing a feral colony, we need kindhearted people to foster these adoptable little ones until they can be placed in "forever homes."

Fostering is a special gift that changes a cat's life forever. Be part of helping needy cats on their way to better lives. If you can to open your heart and home to foster a cat in need, rehabilitate an abused cat, or socialize a kitten contact: [info@wahicats.org](mailto:info@wahicats.org)

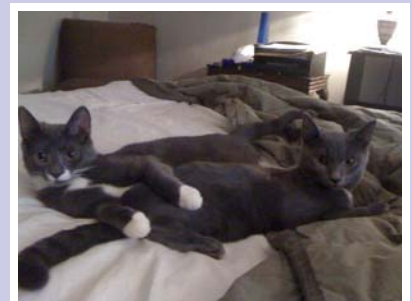
## Success Stories— WaHi Cats Rescues Happy in their Forever Homes



Zorro



Leo

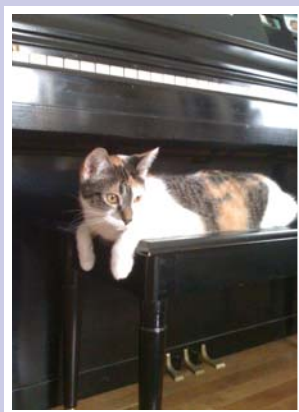


Annabelle and Shelby

## Ft. Tryon TNR Project & Winter Kitten Rescue



Veronica



Noodle



Buttons and Satyia



Harry

This past December, WaHi Cats began one of its most ambitious, ongoing projects in Washington Heights: TNR of the many feral cats in Ft. Tryon Park. To date, WaHi Cats has helped to spay and neuter nearly 30 cats and kittens from multiple areas within the park, but there is still a long way to go. In the first month of mass trappings alone, volunteers were dismayed to discover 7 small kittens living in Ft. Tryon. Kittens are especially vulnerable in winter months, and most kittens born outside in December simply don't survive.

So, on December 10, with the season's first blizzards approaching, WaHi Cats volunteers knew they had to work fast. Over the course of the next nine days, they worked many long, cold hours to capture all but 1 of the 7 kittens. The last

holdout was an extremely savvy Siamese mix who would not go anywhere near the traps. Trappers spent 5 nights in a row trying to catch this last little one.



Snowflake

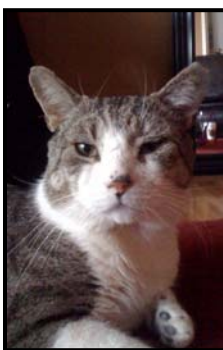
They feared for her life because she was alone with a blizzard on the way. As the first flakes started to fall on December 19, our most experienced trappers spent 3 more hours trying to trap her with several different types of traps. The final kitten was having nothing to do with it! Not wanting to give up, volunteers kept watch until night fell and they couldn't see her anymore

in the snowy darkness (there lots of places for a clever kitten to hide in the park!).

Devastated, the trappers and volunteers

(continued on page 8)

## The Cat of Many Names: Mr. Kissy Patterson Bagpuss



Bagpuss

WaHi Cats first learned of Bagpuss when a kind-hearted resident named Lola called to say that she had been feeding a big, friendly neighborhood cat she called "Kissy" outdoors for 2 years. She was sad to see this fellow she loved becoming increasingly battle-scared from

his life on the streets of Washington Heights. She wanted to adopt him personally, but her terrible asthma prevented her from taking him into her apartment. So, with Lola's help, WaHi Cats caught Kissy and took him to Uptown Vets, where the office manager harrumphed, "Kissy is a pretty wimpy name for this tough boy! Can't you at least throw a 'Mr.' in there for the sake of his dignity?"

A checkup revealed that *Mr. Kissy* was positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). In cats, FIV is a chronic condition that can usually be managed well with proper diet and veterinary care. Many cats with FIV live long, healthy lives without ever becoming symptomatic. However, because *Mr. Kissy* was FIV positive, WaHi Cats knew he would have to be

placed in an understanding home either by himself or with another FIV positive cat.

A WaHi Cats foster parent agreed to take care of *Mr. Kissy* until a "forever home" could be found. *Mr. Kissy's* new foster dad thought the cat's imposing size and various battle scars (including torn ears) made him look like a retired heavyweight boxer, so this foster started affectionately calling him "Patterson."

Imposing looks aside, Patterson was actually a gentle, charming, lover-puss who wanted nothing more than to purr, cuddle, and rest from his



Oscar

years on the street. Fortunately, an adopter named Julie Flanagan granted his wish. Julie had adopted an FIV positive cat named "Oscar" from WaHi Cats the previous year. Julie adored Oscar, but could see that he was a little lonely sometimes, and she thought he could use a friend. When she heard about FIV positive Patterson, Julie knew in her heart that he and Oscar would be a good match. Julie adopted Patterson, and he fit perfectly into her home.

(continued on page 8)

## WaHi Cats Donates Food to ACC

As a result of the economic downturn, New York City has drastically cut funding to the city animal shelters known as Animal Care and Control. ACC is the "last stop" shelter for thousands of New York City's abandoned and unwanted animals. ACC has always been severely underfunded by the city, but 2010 has been even worse.

In February, New Yorkers learned that because of even further cuts to the ACC budget, ACC could no longer afford to buy even basics like canned food for the cats in their care (including the sick ones, seniors, and nursing mothers and kittens). In desperation, ACC workers and volunteers turned to the public for help. Volunteers at the ACC want to see the unfortunate animals that end up in the ACC system treated with as much dignity and human kindness as possible. No animal should spend what may be its final days suffering and starving.

In response to this appeal, WaHi Cats volunteers helped spread the word to encourage adoption and to and take up a collection to buy cases of canned food for the needy cats at the ACC.



**D'Arcy Lion, a WaHi Cats volunteer, delivering cases of food to ACC**

WaHi Cats believes that donations from the public to ACC, while needed as an emergency stop-gap measure to prevent unnecessary suffering, are only a short-term fix. Please call your local city representatives, and Mayor Bloomberg, and ask them to restore funding immediately to the ACC. These animals can't speak for themselves and have ended up in this shelter of last resort through no fault of their own.

When you call, please also tell your representatives to continue to vigorously support TNR—the proven, humane way to reduce cat overpopulation and to prevent thousands of unwanted animals from being euthanized each year in shelters. Spay/Neuter of housepets and TNR of feral cats stops the problem at its source and prevents unwanted animals from ending up at ACC in the first place. TNR is a key part of helping NYC meet Mayor Bloomberg's stated goal of becoming a no-kill city by 2015. For more information about NYC's no-kill goal for 2015, visit:

<http://www.animalalliancencyc.org/press/>

### Shelter Wish List:

Blankets, sheets, towels, beds, dog sweaters/coats, cat toys (nothing that can be removed and eaten), dog toys (rope style, hard rubber, or plastic), tennis balls, kongs, cat treats, dog treats (biscuits, and strips preferred), canned fish, baby food (no seasonings should be in it, garlic and onion are bad for cats), pet brushes, animal safe shampoos

## Beautiful Hats Help Cats

In 2009, designer and animal-lover Inma Serrano created the "Hats for Cats" project to benefit the Washington Heights Cat Colony. Ms. Serrano designs unique handmade hats in a variety of styles and colors.

Each hat Ms. Serrano creates is custom-made at the time of order, so every hat is one-of-a-kind. Ms. Serrano generously donates all proceeds from the sale of these special hats to the Washington Heights Cat Colony.



To discuss styles or to order one of these beautiful hats for yourself or as a gift, contact: [serrano@wahicats.org](mailto:serrano@wahicats.org)

Hat Prices: 25 to 30 dollars per hat, depending on color, style, and yarn choice.



**Inma Serrano, Creator of Hats for Cats and some of her creations**





**TINKER:** Rescued from 187th Street, where he had lived his entire short life. Tinker was so friendly he walked into a carrier to come home with us! Loves to play and have serious belly rubs! Adorable!



**CASS:** The three-legged cat! Darling Cass was rescued from the ACC when she was about to be euthanized. Her injured leg had gone untreated and needed to be amputated. She is doing great now, and walks all three legs with no trouble. What a beauty!



**CLEO-CAT-RA:** Egyptian-looking sweetie pie was found on the streets, begging to be taken home and loved! She loves to play and be petted. Ready for her forever home!



**FELIX:** Super affectionate cuddle bug was found on Wadsworth Avenue, where he had been abandoned. Loves to be loved and totally ready for his forever home!

### ADOPT!

To learn more about any of these cats, or to offer them a forever home, visit their listings on



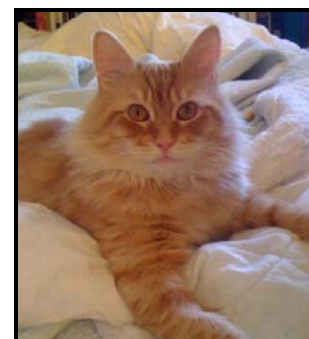
Location: NY  
Group Name:  
WaHi Cats



**BILLY:** Abandoned near a church in Washington Heights. Though initially shy, Billy utterly transformed in foster care into a super-duper love-boy who adores cuddling and watching movies! He loves to nap, play, and give lots of love! What a story with this one!



**WILLY:** (Our Featured Adoptable Pet from page 1) was found beat up and living in a rock at Ft. Tryon Park. He is very gentle and will eat right out of his foster mommy's hand. He is shy at first and needs a patient home where he can blossom.



**QUINCY:** Rescued from a 3 story ledge (read his story on page 4). Quincy was abused in his prior home, but this gorgeous boy still has a lot of affection & love to give.

## WaHi Cats Receives Grant from Friends of Animal Rescue

In February, WaHi Cats received a grant for the purchase of new trapping equipment from Friends of Animal Rescue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping fund small rescue organizations in New York. Thanks to this grant from Friends of Animal Rescue, WaHi Cats was able to buy desperately-needed traps, feral cat handlers, and trap dividers. This grant will help not just one cat, but hundreds.

To learn more about the wonderful work of Friends of Animal Rescue, visit them on Facebook. Feel free to write a thank you note on their wall from all the cats of



Washington Heights. While you are there, check out their upcoming fundraising events, which are held each month at restaurants around the city.

(NAMES continued from page 5)

In Julie's home, Patterson received his final, "forever" name: Bagpuss. Julie explained that "Bagpuss" was the name of a beloved stuffed cat featured on the BBC show "Bagpuss & Co." in the 1970s. When Julie was a little girl, she had watched the show and fallen in love with Bagpuss—the saggy, lumpy cloth cat who, according to the story, had "retired" from his previous life as an adventurer, sea captain, and wanderer. Julie thought the name "Bagpuss" fit her new family member perfectly. And so, Bagpuss now lives happily in Julie's home with his buddy Oscar. Bagpuss and Oscar get along great, and both of these big boys are healthy and thriving under Julie's excellent, loving care.

(ASPCA continued from page 1)

And it's no fun for trappers either.) But our volunteers persevered for the sake of the cats, spending twenty-two hours over three days staked out with traps and tuna in feral cat "hot spots" in parks and alleys all around Washington Heights. Thanks to this extraordinary dedication, WaHi Cats met its goal, showing up bright and early (and also wet and tired) at the ASPCA on Spay Day with 10 feral cats and kittens, just as promised.

All 10 cats received their spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations, and did beautifully. Nine of these cats were returned to their caretakers and released back to their home territories sporting "ear tips" (the universal sign of a neutered, vaccinated feral cat). These cats have winter shelters, and dedicated volunteers

who feed and monitor their colonies daily. The tenth spay day cat was a little kitten young enough to socialize—a sweet calico girl named "Isabella." Isabella was quickly adopted by a family seeking a companion cat for their spunky resident kitty.

But the story doesn't end there. On the night of Sunday Spay Day, after all the surgeries were over and the cats were recovering, we got a call from a volunteer named Teddy who hadn't stopped trapping all day Sunday. She had her sights on one more kitten: Isabella's brother, a black-and-white boy named "Tinker." Tinker had hidden all through the rainstorms, and had missed Spay Day. But Sunday night, he finally emerged cold, drenched, shivering, and hungry. It turned out that a trap wasn't necessary. He walked right up to Teddy, and with

the help of a little tuna, she was able to coax him into a cat carrier. Tinker received his vaccinations, neuter, and checkup one week later at Uptown Vets. He has a clean bill of health, and is now in foster care awaiting his forever home. If you would like to adopt Tinker, contact [info@wahicats.org](mailto:info@wahicats.org)



(KITTEN continued from page 5)

slowly packed up their gear and went home. All night long, snow fell. The next morning, the WaHi Cats crew went back to Ft. Tryon, worried that the 14 inch snowfall meant they would never see the little Siamese kitten again. The group waited for 30 minutes in the sparkling, snow-covered park, figuring that the worst had happened, when suddenly a little Siamese ball of fur was spotted walking down the snowy, icy path where she lived! Everyone was ecstatic!

The trappers had to be very clever since the kitten herself was. One of the volunteers, Ben May, went to the top of the nearest hill to be the lookout, while Sherri Laurence dug out a cave in a snowbank

to hide while waiting for the little one to go into the traps. The kitten spent 3 full hours watching and examining every inch of the traps and the gadgets connected to them, before finally going in! Sherri took the kitten back to her home to foster personally. As soon as the kitten realized that she was warm and being taken care of, the little ball of fur purred like crazy! Of all the 7 kittens trapped, this clever holdout turned out to be the most affectionate and least fearful of the bunch! We named our little Siamese survivor "Snowflake" (for obvious reasons), and she was quickly adopted into a loving home—as were the other kittens rescued this past December.

Since then, the TNR project in Ft Tryon Park has continued. The feral adult cats

that have been trapped so far have been TNR-ed and returned to their territory. Winter shelters are placed for their comfort and warmth, and regular feeders continue to feed them. In the course of TNR-ing the ferals, WaHi Cats also discovered several friendly cats that turned out to be abandoned, tame house pets. These tame cats have been placed in foster care to await their forever homes. Willy, one of these cats, is our featured adoptable pet in this newsletter!

The Ft. Tryon project is a large, ongoing undertaking, and much help is needed to complete it. Please feel free to donate or volunteer whatever you can to help with this important work that WaHi Cats has taken on for the benefit of all Washington Heights residents!