

Feline Forum

The Cat Welfare Association Newsletter

October/November 2021

Watch Out! One-Eyed Cats Will Steal Your Heart

by Cassandra Clancy

Found by a Good Samaritan, the 2.5-pound male tabby's eyes were matted shut with infection. The tiny kitten was taken to Cat Welfare on October 12, 2018, where he was cleaned up and treated before his left eye was removed.

At 3 months and 3 weeks old, the one-eyed boy was still waiting on a forever home. I adopted him and named him "Winky," since he looks like he's winking all the time.

Being an inexperienced caregiver for a one-eyed cat, I read articles on how to raise him. Based on what I read, I tested Winky's ability to track toys, judge distances and avoid smashing into furniture. First, I threw a toy cloth mouse for him to bat around, and he fetched it like a dog, quickly returning the toy to my feet. He passed!

Then I tested his inclination to startle when approached from his blind side. If he startles, he recovers quickly and adjusts to the circumstances. He passed!

Finally, I tested his ability to play with toys that do not make sounds. Some folks suggest one-eyed cats play best with bird-tweeting, clicky or squeaky toys. However, as long as the toy slides across the floor, Winky proudly trots it back to me like an English hunting dog. He passed!

Winky has come out of his shell. The now-3-year-old, affectionate rascal jumps on beds and races around chair legs, table legs and people legs just like a two-eyed cat. He comes when called (usually), wrestles with our larger cat and tries to answer a ringing phone.

The moral of the story is this: Don't turn your back on a one-eyed cat because he can still steal your cheese. In other words, a cat—as well as a human—can have a disability and still live a full life. Don't count them out.



Your donations to the Vincent Fund help pay for unexpected vital medical care for our shelter cats, including Winky. See more stories about blind and vision impaired kitties in their Happy Homes on page 6.

2022 Calendar Winners Announced

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchison, Calendar Contest Chair

These photos are more than just another pretty picture because they were taken by ordinary people who show they care about the cats in their lives by making a positive difference in their community.

The entries and voting involved about 50 people who wanted their favorite kitty's photo to be one of the 13 large photos in next year's calendar. The voting proceeds and calendar sales benefit all of the programs at Cat Welfare! This year, as in the past, there were many wonderful photos and great rescue stories for the judges to consider.

In addition to the 13 large photos, nearly all of the photos are still winners because they will be featured on the monthly calendar pages. This fun contest and fundraiser helps support Cat Welfare, while creating awareness about events for cat lovers scheduled throughout the coming year!

Printed 2022 calendars will be on sale this fall at the shelter, at The Catique and on the CWA website, catwelfareassoc.org.



The 13 large photos for the 2022 Calendar are:

- Tony - *Our Big Guy Tony*
- Winston - *Random Thoughts from the Mind of Winston*
- Waldo - *I Hope You Don't Plan To Make Me Move...*
- Berry - *Borrowed Kitten*
- Esmerelda - *Snack Time with Ezzie*
- Gary - *Maybe I am a Little Intense*
- Renni & Logan - *On the Hunt*
- Chaz Darren - *SuperChaz!*
- Tigger - *I Got Catitude*
- Fancy - *Fancy Pants*
- Violet - *(Shrinking) Violet*
- Booticus Earl Butt (Boots) and Oswald Walter McSnorty Snort (Ollie) - *Brothers from Different Mothers*
- Scarlet Grey - *Sunshine Nap*

Also, the best rescue stories on the inside cover will be about:

- Doodle - *Dream a Little Dream of Doodle*
- Slate - *Panther on Patrol*
- Wynter Rose H. - *Wynter's Christmas*

Our Mission

The Cat Welfare Association is dedicated to the care of and education about cats and kittens. Our pledge is to cherish, nurture and provide veterinary care for homeless, abused, injured and abandoned felines. We strive to find each cat an appropriate, safe and loving home, allowing those not placed to live their lives in the care and comfort of our shelter.



741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214
614-268-6096

catwelfareassoc.org

[facebook.com/catwelfareassoc](https://www.facebook.com/catwelfareassoc)

Helen DeSantis, Executive Director

Hours

11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday
through Tuesday

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday

The adoption fee of \$40 (\$25 for senior and special needs cats) includes spay/neuter surgery, initial vaccinations, testing for feline leukemia and FIV, microchip identification, flea treatment & deworming.



Board of Directors

President: Karen Ramey
Vice President: Brenda Martin
Secretary: Katie Thomas
Heidi Garinger • Sue Godsey
• Teresa Plummer

Treasurer: Judi Lang

Ex-Officio:
RoseAnn Ballangee • Peggy Kirk

Cat Welfare Holiday Bazaar

**November 18, 19 & 20
10 am - 5 pm**

The Catique
1005 Mediterranean Ave,
Columbus, OH 43229

*To benefit the cats
and kittens
at The Cat Welfare
Association*

<http://www.catwelfareassoc.org/>

Members: Vote for the Board

This year, The Cat Welfare Association's Board election will again be held by mail rather than in person. If you are at least 18 years of age and have been a paid member of The Cat Welfare Association for at least 12 months preceding November 2021, you are eligible to vote. To vote, cut out this ballot or print it from our website and send the completed form to CWA Board Election, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214. **Please write your name and address on the envelope so that your voting privileges can be verified before the ballots are opened and counted on November 16.** Processes are in place to ensure the confidentiality of your vote. Votes must be received no later than November 16. Only one vote per membership, please.

Please select up to THREE:

- Amy Borrer
- Peggy Kirk
- Jay H. Mathew
- Lisa Strickland

Need help deciding? Candidate statements can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, and the candidates' full Board applications can be found at catwelfareassoc.org/board.

Cat Welfare 2022 Calendar

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Number of calendars _____ at \$16.92 each

_____ Total cost

Cost includes tax and shipping

Make checks payable to The Cat Welfare Association



Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ 3-Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Get to Know Your Board Candidates

To help mail-in voters get to know the CWA members running to serve on the shelter's Board, we asked the candidates to submit answers to two questions in 250 words or less:

- Why do you want to serve on the Board?
- What skills do you bring to the table to help The Cat Welfare Association?

Their answers are below. Find instructions for voting on page 3 of this newsletter. The candidates' completed applications can be found at catwelfareassoc.org/board.

Amy Borrer

I was one of those kids whose bed was so covered with stuffed animals there was barely room for me. My childhood dog died shortly after I graduated college, and I headed to Cat Welfare and came home with CJ and Zoe. My life as an animal-loving adult had officially begun. My wife and I currently share our home with our two dogs and six cats. When the pandemic led to our working from home, we began fostering kittens through Cat Welfare. Foster kitten number nine, Eggo, is chasing my fingers as I attempt to type this statement. (Shocking to everyone who knows us, only one foster has become a permanent resident.)

I work for a national nonprofit in a jack-of-all-trades position, and I'm hopeful my varied experience can be of use to Cat Welfare's work and mission. The bulk of my 23-year career has focused on policy, writing and media. During the past four years, I've expanded into fundraising, grant writing, event planning/management, website content development and even CRM development and maintenance.

Working for a nonprofit, and previously for a state agency overseen by a commission, I understand the role of a board of directors to help an organization define its vision and achieve its mission. It is both big-picture and supportive work. I would love an opportunity to join The Cat Welfare Association's Board of Directors, support the work of its remarkable staff and help the cats and kittens of our community.

Peggy Kirk

As a current ex-officio member of the board, I would like to continue in my service to CWA as a full member of the board. Previously I served seven years on the board, several as board president.

My service to CWA includes volunteering at The Catique and working on special projects. My vision for CWA is the continued expansion of the shelter, which will enrich the lives of the shelter cats and provide additional space for assisting more homeless, pregnant and injured cats and kittens.

There is a special place in my heart for feral cats. I am proud of CWA's altering programs and Willard's Village Babies Fund for feral cats. I would like to see CWA increase outreach to the community to educate on the importance of spay/neuter and TNR to alleviate the suffering of felines.

As an attorney, my experience in different areas of the law has been valuable in assisting with various legal issues at CWA.

Jay H. Mathew

I got my first cat when I was 12 years old from a girl I had a crush on. I've had a crush on cats ever since. I have been a Cat Welfare volunteer for over 15 years. During that time, my wife and I have assisted with numerous activities for Cat Welfare, including fostering, socialization of shy cats, rescue of abandoned, sick or injured cats as well as speaking before Civic Associations and other groups on how Cat Welfare can help continue the education on the care for cats and kittens in our community. These activities have given me an opportunity to showcase the depth of care and concern that Cat Welfare has for the cats in our community. At several Cat Welfare fundraising events I have demonstrated: how to make feral cat houses, how to humanely trap feral cats and how to manage feral colonies.

I am a retired IT Executive. My career involved solving issues to improve a business process or designing systems to best automate that process. As a consultant I worked directly with senior management teams at Fortune 500 clients to develop long term IT business plans. I have also served on Boards around Columbus, including the Business Advisory Council for Goodwill Industries.

I look forward to assisting Cat Welfare moving forward in its mission. Being a valued ambassador for Cat Welfare is an honor and privilege that I hope to continue by being elected to the Board.

Lisa Strickland

I have been a big fan and supporter of Cat Welfare since I adopted Aladdin, the best cat in the world, from the shelter in 1991. I have been a volunteer since 2014. I have fostered hundreds of cats and kittens. I'm honored to be trusted with the care and nurturing of these little lives, to ensure they are healthy, socialized and ready to charm their way into the hearts of prospective adopters. I was a part of the team that launched the Crime Cats Reading Club. After the successful pilot, I have stayed with the club to organize membership and plan activities for participants. I look forward to welcoming readers again once we're through the pandemic.

I am a proud "cat lady" and want to help as many cats as possible. I will bring my professional skills and experience to the board to support Cat Welfare's mission. I am currently a business analyst for a large corporation, where I identify and implement process improvements with a focus on client and employee experience. I am adept at moving people through change to drive successful projects. Additionally, I have experience in corporate communications, developing communication strategies and tools to improve productivity and standardize practices. I would love to support the CWA mission by promoting the shelter, assisting with fundraising and helping with any operational improvements needed.

Cat Caper 5K

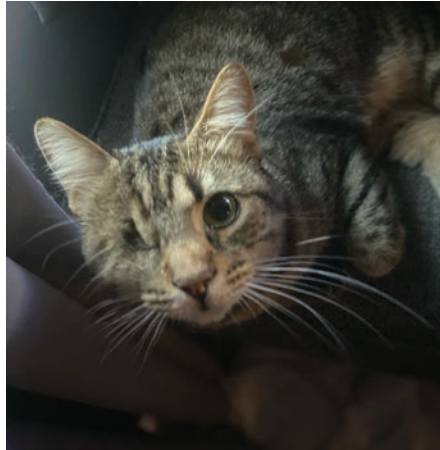
Saturday, October 9
Scioto Audubon Metro Park

Register Now:
runsignup.com/Race/OH/Columbus/CatCaper5K

CWA Happy Homes



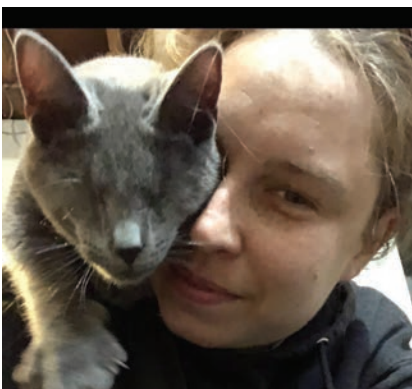
Waffles' full name is **Roscoe McWafflefeathers**, and he has a whole backstory about how he lost his eye that includes prizefighting and the mafia. He's mischievous, wild, playful and goofy. He prefers to stay on the ground or on low furniture and does not choose to climb the cat trees, although at times he will jump up into higher windows to look out. He has some depth perception issues, so we have to be careful about letting him jump out of our arms. He can play just as well as our other kitties with normal vision. He is a little clumsier than they are, and he tries to sneak around corners but fails because he has to stick his whole head around them to see what's going on.



Katherine



In 2020, CWA staff member **Megan** took home foster kittens **Ramsay & Gordon** after their enucleation (eye removal) surgeries. A year later the boys are very happy residents in Megan's home. She says they are always together, have no problem navigating the house and play just as hard as any other young cats she's had. But why stop with two blind cats? **Jax** came into the shelter not long after Megan had taken the other boys home. Jax is extremely affectionate but "has no manners," as he loves to leap into your arms, jump on to your back and crawl up your leg.



When I first adopted **Commodore**, he had some trouble jumping, but since then he's gotten used to gauging distances and has become an expert. His missing eye certainly hasn't impacted his confidence. He is very friendly and loves meeting people and cuddling with everyone. He's unusually sweet and gentle. Since I adopted him almost six months ago, he hasn't given me a single scratch mark, even while playing. He loves being brushed, rotating himself like a rotisserie chicken to make sure I get every spot. His meows are adorable little peeps and squeaks that sound like they should belong to a fluffy white kitten instead of a 16-pound ex-tomcat. Overall he's pretty much the opposite of what you might expect from a cat who lost his eye to a fight in the streets! I'm so grateful to everyone at Cat Welfare Association for helping to give him a second chance and bringing this wonderful gentleman into my life.

Margaret

Got a Happy Homes story? Upload it at catwelfareassoc.org or mail it to Cat Welfare, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

We Love Our Donors

Ishie Memorial Fund

for long-term care of shelter residents

Little Turtle Civic Association Inc. "In memory of Steve Schumacher"

Richard Austin

Catherine Zitko "In memory of Sweet Pea"

Anita Knoechel "In memory of Hans Knoechel - a dog person who also loved cats"

Anita Dean

Richard & Lynne McWherter "Martita Dougherty"

Anne Needleman

Janice & Jerry Noltemeyer

Sandra Budin

Patricia Johnson "In memory of Arlene Cis"

Grace Schillinger

Altering Fund

to subsidize community low-cost spay/neuter surgeries

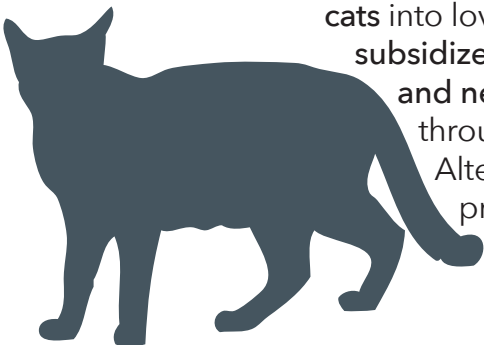
Annie Lach, Sharon McKibben, William Hout "In memory of Doug Buhner," Sarah Lucas "In memory of Ann Pechacek," Brian Garver, Anita Dean and Jennifer Howell "In memory of John Venable"

Joey's Good Sam Fund

for medical care of owned cats

Randall Hertzler "In memory of Doug Buhner and Jasmine Boots," Tracey LaRue, Katherine Fetty, Carol Ann Bradley, Kerry Bogner, Valerie Richards "In memory of Joan Shkolnik," Anita Dean, Janet Merwin, Kathy Burkholder, Donna Brobeck and Karen Thimmes "In memory of Izzy"

From January through July 2021, we **adopted 398 cats** into loving homes and **subsidized 1,798 spay and neuter surgeries** through our various Altering Fund programs.



Willard's Village Babies Fund

for care of feral cat colonies

Juanita & Rita Woods "In memory and love of Willard," Annie Lach, Lisa Leaper, Jennifer Schleppe, Kimesha Simmonds, Penny Popper, Erin Eichel, and Lallie Wetzig

Vincent Fund

for emergency care for shelter cats

Linda Schellkopf, Kathleen Seeger, Melissa Stiles, Jay DeLombard, Marjorie Obrist, Anita Dean, Susan McKinley, Cassandra Clancy, Richard Austin, Nancy Aleman, Janice & Jerry Noltemeyer and Lynne Bonenberger

Cat-A-Lack Chow Club

for food for the shelter residents

Leslie Bothast, Allison Haedt, Kristin Sandberg, Stefan Langer & Emily Turner "In memory of Ann Pechacek. Friend, lover, librarian and amazing human. Thank you," Claire Smith and Shannon English

Make Our Wishes Come True

We update our Wish Lists on a monthly basis. You can find CWA's Amazon Wish List at goo.gl/eLNYhd and Chewy Wish List at bit.ly/35PLR1s.

You can also benefit the shelter cats through the AmazonSmile program, which allows you to shop as usual while Amazon gives 0.5% of your purchase to Cat Welfare! To qualify your purchase, go to smile.amazon.com and search for The Cat Welfare Association. Click the "Select" button to select it from the list, then shop as usual. It's that easy! Your personal Wish Lists, baby and wedding registries, and other accounts stay the same. Thank you! Every little bit helps!



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October/November 2021

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT NO. 407

741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214

catwelfareassoc.org

Incorporated Under Law: As a non-profit, charitable organization

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Shelter Wish List:

Purina Cat Chow, Purina Kitten Chow, paper towels, brown paper grocery bags, laundry detergent, moist cat food, Temptation cat treats. Find more on CWA's Amazon Wish List: goo.gl/eLNYhd.



Hello, Peyton

Peyton is a chatty, approximately 4-year-old cat who has been at Cat Welfare for just over a year. She tends to be a loner, but she does really enjoy attention from humans of all ages. We believe she will be a lap sitter and enjoy playing with toys once she is out of the shelter.

Peyton's irritated eyes have been examined by three veterinarians, and they all conclude that she has corneal scarring from the herpes virus and recommend giving her artificial tears, which are available over the counter.

Let's share her story with family and friends so we can find her a forever home.

Cat Welfare has nearly 270 cats available for adoption. Find your new feline friend by visiting catwelfareassoc.org or stopping by to visit our shelter. The kitties would be happy to see you!