



THE L.I.C.K. LETTER

Life Improvement for Cats & Kittens, a non-profit cat shelter

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www.catsandkittens.org

December 2001

Looking Back: LICK 2001

It was another year of tremendous highs mixed in with some heart-rending lows – but all things considered, it was a good year. We, the LICK family of volunteers, laughed and cried together and are ready to take on 2002, whatever it brings. Each year we get better: we're more organized, wiser, more determined, and stronger. Maybe crazier, too- we're not sure.

Our lowest times come, not from financial struggles, but from having to say the inevitable good-byes at the Rainbow Bridge. This year we have empty spaces in our hearts left by Grant, Gizmo, Pita, Arbee, Tarzan, Felix, Al, Lady Chelsea, Scallop, and Boyd. They'll never be forgotten.

On the brighter side of what we do, we welcomed 9 kitten broods: The 3 Racoons & Gray-Baby, The Royal Family, The Mixed Nuts, The 76'ers, The Texas Twins, The Hoyt Bunch, The Honey Farm Guys, The Liquor Cabinet, and The Variety Pack. (All the kittens have names, of course, but it's easier to identify them by their "tribe.") We also got the Moms: Mo-Ki, Lady Chelsea, Lucy, Miss Pretty, Popcorn, Clarisse, Queen Bee, Martini, Daquiri, and Stubby. (They've done their part. No more kittens for them.) And there were 11 motherless kitten rescues: Mario, Blue, Thelma, Gavin, Switch, Moses, and the 5 that volunteer Dawn Dochney singlehandedly rescued from the branches of a cedar tree. (You go, girl!) Add to that the adult cat rescues from various sources, and we have been running a full house all year.

Adoptions were slow but steady, and we made a lot of lonely people happy, from a 95-year-old widow to a person recovering from a serious illness. Happy cats with happy people – that's what we aim for.

There were interesting late-night rescues, emergency temporary in-takes, and too many trips to the veterinary hospital to be counted. It all kept rolling along through fundraisers and individual donations of money and supplies. Outstanding cooperation among the volunteers kept everything flowing smoothly around business trips, injuries, and illnesses. Our veterinarians, Dr. Meg Scott and Dr. Greg Pieretti, and the Mays Landing

Veterinary Hospital staff, performed their everyday miracles of mending, healing, and life-saving with caring and good humor. And when tough decisions had to be made, they were there every step of the way with comfort and support. Dr. Diane Eigner of The Cat Doctor practice in Philadelphia was also a tremendous resource.

Physical upgrades to the facility abounded through the efforts of many volunteers. We added a whole new outdoor pen, another play pagoda, a screen door, a new floor, a new ceiling, and 3 new kitten pens. We also acquired 12 stainless steel pens for our Isolation Unit to be completed next year.



New Outdoor Pen



New Floor installed by Karen

Please visit our MEET THE VOLUNTEERS page on our website (www.catsandkittens.org) to see the outstanding people who keep LICK going.

And now, a very special thank-you to the area merchants who have supported LICK with donations of fundraising items and supplies for the shelter itself. Please think of them when you do your holiday shopping.

Arnold's Pet Wonderland – 1000 Tilton Rd., Northfield, NJ
Best Buy – Consumer Square, Hamilton Township
Critter Creations (custom-made cat furniture) – 609-992-4192
Animal House – 229 White Horse Pike, Absecon, NJ
Downbeach Video and DVD – 3 S. Frontenac Ave., Margate, NJ
Avant Garden – Haven Ave., Ocean City, NJ
Say Cheese – Village Green, Smithville, NJ
Paws for Thought – Village Green, Smithville, NJ
Heart of Country – West Creek, NJ
JerseyLite Candle Co. (the BEST in jars, pillars, and votives; special gift baskets, too)
– www.jerseylitecandle.com
Bette's Fine Framing & Gallery – 1620 Tilton Rd., Northfield, NJ
Bonita Gifts – www.bonitagifts.com
Humane Society of Atlantic County (check out their gift shop!) – 1801 Absecon Blvd.,
AC, NJ

Looking Ahead: LICK 2002

1. One of the most daunting problems at any shelter is the control of illnesses such as colds and eye infections. It's like a daycare center. Once someone has the sniffles, they ALL have the sniffles. So LICK is converting the original small barn into an isolation unit where our sick kitties can be cared for in a quiet, stress-free environment, using vaporizers, nebulizers, air-filtration, special diets, etc. We have already obtained the stainless steel cages, but are still in need of a double standard-size window, a ceiling exhaust fan, a small window air conditioner, floor linoleum (8 x 12), and rolled insulation for under the floor. We also need some volunteers for installation of these items.
2. Adoptions, adoptions, adoptions! In order to take any more rescues in, we have to move some out. Our goal for each cat is to get him/her into a good home – and we do have criteria, such as a vet reference (name and phone #), a safe indoor-only environment, ability to provide appropriate care for the cat, and an understanding that this is a long-term commitment.
3. Trap-Neuter-Release: We plan to continue assisting people with trapping, neutering, and releasing feral cats. Please call us for details.
4. Special Programs: This is the year we hope to have enough volunteers to move ahead with 2 new programs: kitty foster care and nursing home visitation for the elderly.

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Cat Safety Tips: *Be careful with holiday decorations. Pointsettias can make your cat sick; mistletoe berries and potpourri can be fatal. Tinsel can cause intestinal blockage. Soak up poisonous antifreeze spills with clay absorbent. Use Sierra antifreeze in your car. Sound your horn or knock on the hood before starting your car in cold weather – wherever you are parked. Make sure your cat isn't inside your recliner before putting the footrest down. Never give human or dog medication to your cat without checking with your vet first; some of it can be fatal to cats. This includes aspirin and other pain relievers.*
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Available for adoption. See more at www.catsandkittens.org



Great Quotes:

"The playful kitten, with its pretty little tigerish gambols, is infinitely more amusing than half the people one is obliged to live with in the world." Lady Syndey Morgan

"Dogs come when called. Cats take a message and get back to you later." F.X.

"In ancient Egypt, the cat was revered as a god. It has never forgotten that." Anonymous

Immediate Needs

1. Volunteers. We need shelter workers (just an hour or 2 of your time each week), fundraisers, general maintenance, transportation to-from vet, trappers, and foster care families.
 2. Funds. We recognize that many people have responded to the crisis in New York and Washington from the terrorist attacks and have reached or exceeded their level of charitable giving, and we applaud you for your efforts. For those who are still able to help us, any amount is greatly appreciated.
 3. Supplies. It is extremely helpful to our budget when we receive supplies. What we need most are paper towels, canned kitten food, "Exceed" dry cat food (Sam's Club), Oil-Dri absorbent (Sam's Club) (it's what we use for cat litter), 13-gallon trash bags, bleach, and laundry detergent. There is also a need for stainless steel bowls (any size), cat toys, and humane traps (raccoon-size, available at Home Depot).
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Holiday Gift-Giving to Benefit LICK

Catnip Body Pillows: These make great carrier bolsters to keep your cat secure during trips to the vet. Also make comfy sleep pillows and play buddies. Handmade just for LICK. Cotton print on one side; fleece on the other. Donation: \$7 each.

Catnip Playballs: Light and fluffy, great fun for cats of all ages and sizes. Handmade just for LICK. Donation: \$3 each -or- 3 for \$8.

2002 LICK Calendar: Wall hanging. Features full-size pictures of some of our most photogenic shelter kitties. Donation: \$10 each.

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Please send the following to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ Catnip Pillows ___ Catnip Playballs ___ 2002 LICK Calendars

___ Other donation enclosed ___ I want to volunteer. Please contact me.

Mail form to LICK, PO Box 392, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Orders can also be placed through www.catsandkittens.org