

Summer 2023

# CAT CARE QUARTERLY



MEET  
GORDON

STARTING  
OVER AFTER  
LOSING  
YOUR CAT

MEET THE ANIMAL  
CARE TEAM

OUR NEW  
STRATEGIC PLAN

[WWW.CATCARESOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.CATCARESOCIETY.ORG)

## Cat Care Quarterly

The official newsletter of Cat Care Society, published each season of the year.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EC Michaels

### DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

Ashleigh Leader

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Amanda Huggett

### VOLUNTEER & EVENTS MANAGER

Mandy Babb

### SHELTER MANAGERS

Kai Pierce & Jet Stoner

### VETERINARY SERVICES MANAGER

Crystal Evans

### ART DIRECTOR

Jane Dorsey

### MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Ariana Jenks

### BOOKKEEPER

Jennifer Shannon

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Adams; Willow Arnold;  
Mark Colsman (chair); Ken Dobrovolny;  
Stephanie Gilmore; Kay Higgins;  
Kathy McChesney; Kim Miller;  
Suzannah Sage; Michaela Sullivan;  
Lisa VanRaemdonck



## Our Mission

To be a safe and enriching place for all cats on their journey to a loving home. We do this by providing compassionate care, shelter, adoption services and community engagement.

# HOW TO HELP

## BECOME A FOSTER

We are in need of foster families for our kittens, pregnant mothers, temporary care cats and cats who need special attention.

## VOLUNTEER

Give back by donating your time! We have many volunteer needs and roles available.

## AMAZON/CHEWY WISHLIST

Donating to our Amazon Wishlist is a fast and easy way to support our cats!

## SPONSOR A CAT

Support any of our available cats by sponsoring their adoption fee!

## MEOW MART

Visit our Meow Mart in person or online for all your cat necessities, from treats and toys to stickers, bags and shirts! All profits go directly toward the shelter.



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/CATCARESOCIETY](https://linktr.ee/catcaresociety) FOR WAYS TO HELP



DONATE ONLINE AT [CATCARESOCIETY.ORG/DONATE](https://catcaresociety.org/donate)

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello friends of Cat Care Society! As I reach one full year with this incredible organization, I can't help but beam with pride for everything we've achieved together and are still working to accomplish. And, I've got some great updates to share with you.

CCS has such a rich history, and as we continue to drive ourselves forward, it was time to think big-picture as we go into the next era. So, to celebrate our past and expand on our offerings, we engaged in setting forth a new strategic plan. This ambitious plan helps us refine our identity and keep up with what's needed in animal welfare and in our own community.

It started last February with a situational analysis of where we were, where we want to be and how to get there. We partnered with a company, Mission Spark, who conducted interviews with staff and board members and guided a community survey that many of you may have received. We were thrilled to get so many responses – in fact, we had a higher than average response rate, which is a testament to the passion you all bring to the table. Thank you!

The survey results showed that we already had great dedication to the organization, strong core operations and a solid reputation among those already familiar with our work. What we discovered validated where we need to improve, which is in the areas of staffing, systems and structure, increased visibility and strengthening our facility.

After further analysis and a retreat with our board of directors in June, we began building a new visionary plan that focused on our guiding principles and perfectly reflected who we want to be and how we can best help the cats in our care. What we've developed together sets forth a new comprehensive and cohesive identity, which embraces the building blocks that will propel us into a successful future.

But that's not all. If you visit us online, you will see an entirely redesigned website with fresh content and new features to make it even easier to find the information you need. You may have also noticed a slight change to our logo, which features a cat with one eye and another one with one leg to reflect our values of caring for every cat, regardless of his or her condition. We have also welcomed a few new members to our board of directors, who are bringing invaluable insight and experience to our leadership.

I encourage you to check out our new blog, where I share a more in-depth look at the statistics from our prior fiscal year that demonstrate our impact on cats.

There is so much to look forward to as an organization and a community, and I just know that our years ahead look as bright as ever.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "EC Michaels". The signature is fluid and cursive.

EC MICHAELS

# Strategic Plan

July 2023 - June 2026



## OUR CORE VALUES

Cat Care Society is:

- Welcoming of all cats. None are too old or ill to be valued, loved and treated with dignity. We are compassionate of the cats in our care and the people whose lives we touch.
- Committed to excellence in operations, ensuring the highest quality of care for cats and delivering trusted services for people who love cats.
- Unique in our approach, offering free-roaming and enriching spaces for cats, embracing cats that need specialized support, and providing superior medical care.
- Connected to our community as a regional leader, inspirational model and educational resource in cat welfare.
- Inclusive of the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of the people we welcome through our doors and engage with in our community.

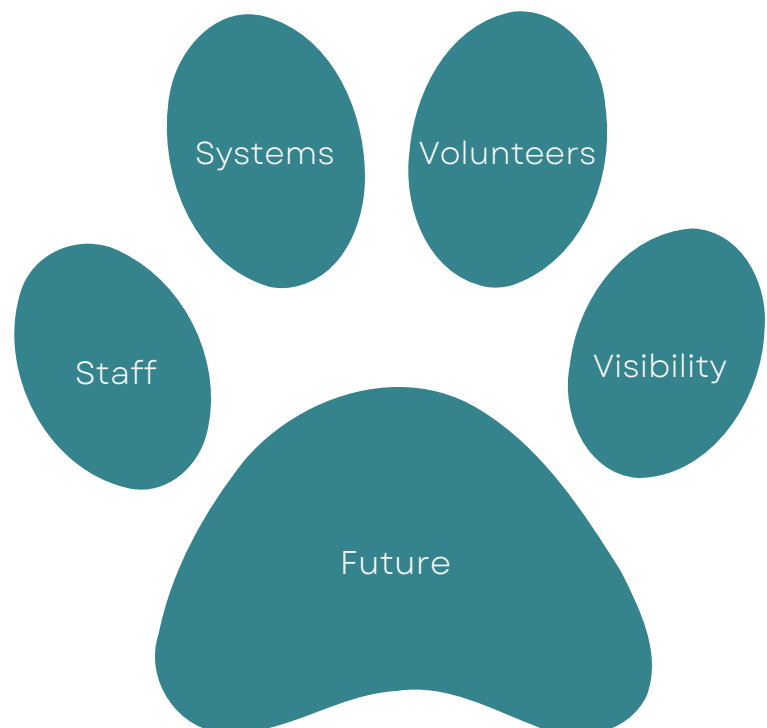
## MISSION

To be a safe and enriching place for all cats on their journey to a loving home. We do this by providing compassionate care, shelter, adoption services and community engagement.

## VISION

Our vision is a committed and collaborative community where all cats have the opportunity to thrive.

## STRATEGIC GOALS



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JULY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>22 <b>Free Seminar: Resolving Litter Box Issues</b><br/>10 - noon   CCS Shelter</p> | <p>29 <b>Catfest Colorado Springs</b><br/>10 - 5   Colorado Springs Events Center</p> |
|--|---|

## AUGUST

- 26 **Free Seminar: Caring for Senior Cats**  
10 - noon | CCS Shelter

## SEPTEMBER

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>16 <b>Tails of the Painted Cats</b><br/>5 - 9 pm   Baldoria on the Water, Lakewood</p>         | <p>23 <b>Free Seminar: The Benefits of Play</b><br/>10 - noon   CCS Shelter</p> |
| <p>30 <b>Free Seminar: Estate Planning with Your Pets in Mind</b><br/>10 - noon   CCS Shelter</p> |   |

Learn more and sign up for these events at [www.catcaresociety.org](http://www.catcaresociety.org).

### ADOPTION SPECIALS

- July: Free adoption on any cat for military service members
- August: Half off Lonely Hearts Club members + all FREE Aug 13
- September: Free adoption on any cat for educators

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES ON ALL UPCOMING EVENTS!



Cat Care Society

@catcaresociety

Cat Care Society

@catcaresociety

@catcaresociety

# PAST EVENTS



Thank you to everyone who stopped by to see the CCS booth at Denver's Pride Fest in June. We had a spectacular time participating in the festivities, meeting visitors, selling merch, and celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community. We also debuted our cat-tastic float at Edgewater's Pride Parade earlier in the month. Check out these photo highlights!



# GORDON Adoption Spotlight



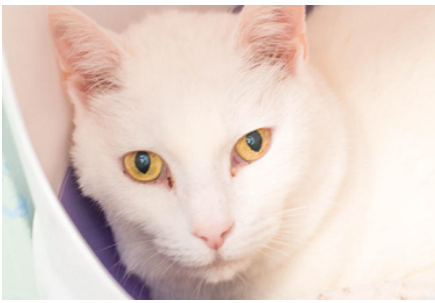
Meet Gordon, a gorgeous tabby who's looking for a loving and supportive home since being in our care for a year. Gordon is an extraordinary cat who loves being pet and brushed, and is very curious about his surroundings. While he can be slow to open up, he has made tremendous progress in his foster home, becoming more social and interactive. His favorite toys are feathery wands.

Because he is hard of hearing, Gordon may be startled easily and is not a fan of sudden movements. He's been known to meow with fervor — likely because he doesn't realize how loud he can be when he wants attention! Gordon longs for a friend, and because he is FIV+ (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), he would benefit tremendously from living with a more social FIV+ cat to help him thrive and combat loneliness. Gordon would do best in a quiet and understanding home with no dogs or children and a feline friend. He may need some time and patience, but we assure you the wait is worth it for this sweetheart who has lots of love to give!

## WHAT IS THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB?

*Lonely Hearts Club members are cats who are older, not as eye-catching, have specific medical needs, or just haven't found their right family yet. They may have been overlooked in the past, but we believe that they can bring so much love to your life!*

## Where Are They Now? GHOST



Also nicknamed Houdini, Ghost was a cat who quite literally appeared in our shelter one day like an elusive magic trick! Lucky for Ghost, we were happy to take in the mystery white cat and help him find a home.

It all started one winter morning earlier this year when one of our animal care techs arrived early and went about the day's duties. But then, she spotted a flash of white whiz by and noticed a cat munching on an open bag of food. Not unusual in a shelter, right? The catch is, at the time, CCS had no white cats in our care!

To this day, we're not sure exactly how Ghost found his way in our doors, nor his age or original name. We think that during open hours, someone must have slipped him in and left. And he was very good at hiding.



We happily took Ghost in and properly introduced him to the shelter. After some needed dental work, he happily roamed his own room during recovery. Shortly after, Ghost was hit with another setback. Our medical team discovered a form of cancer caused by excessive exposure to sunlight, isolated to his ears. He underwent surgery to remove his ears, and did great! He now has a collection of hats.

Ghost — now Bug! — went into our foster to adopt program, and his new adopter Stuart was happy to care for him post-op. Stuart met Bug! when he was in the shelter to adopt another CCS cat, Marilyn. A week later, he inquired about the white mystery cat and brought him home. "Bug! has a lot of personality," Stuart said.

*"He's very affectionate and trills a lot. He doesn't meow much, and his purr has low volume. After a few weeks, he fit in with my other cats."*



He's still playful and friendly and follows his new owner around. He even likes (or tolerates) being put around Stuart's neck or being held like a baby while getting belly rubs. We're so happy to see him in a happy and loving home!

*If you've adopted from us and want to share an update, fill out the Success Story form on our website or email us at [socialmedia@catcaresociety.org](mailto:socialmedia@catcaresociety.org).*

# Meet the Animal Care Team!

One of the most crucial roles to any animal shelter is making sure that the animals are well taken care of. And the department at Cat Care Society responsible for this is our animal care team.

Rain or shine, holiday or not, this team shows up for the cats in a big way! A typical day starts with morning rounds, where they take inventory of all the animals in the shelter to ensure every cat is accounted for and there is nothing abnormal.

They then work together to get set up for the day, which includes food prep and feeding, laundry, restocking, splitting up rooms and quarantine areas, offering enrichment to the cats after cleaning, and sifting through donations.



“Not a lot of down time for us, but the day is fun and goes quickly!”

- Michelle Duvall, Animal Care Lead

This team is also responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the facility, creating and implementing vital enrichment programs, reporting to and communicating with the medical team when any abnormalities and illness is recognized, communicating with the adoptions team about behavior and personality traits to help cats find compatible homes, and working closely with the animal care volunteers.



Pictured: Jenna Shows, Kelly Cunningham, Lincoln Landrum, Michelle Duvall

Just one example of the impact this team has is with two recent bonded cats that were in our care: Garfield and Big Red, both FIV boys. Cats with FIV are usually in shelters longer due to the public not fully understanding the disease. Garfield came to CCS as extremely fractious and was near impossible to handle. “He was not facing a good fate,” Duvall recalled. “He is the reason why animal care, especially Kelly, took on a strong compassion for socialization and enrichment.”

It took months for Garfield to trust humans, until one day he met Big Red, another very shy boy. The two bonded quickly and were placed in a room by themselves. That’s when the team was finally able to touch him! Garfield was eating Churus from a long handle, and then soon enough our fingers, and then rubbing between our legs for attention. “You could see the change in his eyes; he was brighter, happier, and overall the sweetest boy,” Duvall said.



“Our team cried the day they went home with each other, and we all realized how important our job is when it comes to giving these guys a second chance!”



Duvall says that working in this shelter environment has been the most rewarding and exciting job she has ever worked. “It’s been amazing to see cats open up to humans,” she shared. “My favorite cases are the ones who were otherwise deemed ‘unhandleable’ learn to open up and trust humans. While this job isn’t always easy as some animals don’t always make it beyond the shelter walls, it’s amazing to be a part of their lives to ensure they have a happy, healthy and clean home, even if it may be temporary. The most rewarding of it all is bonding and seeing them moving along to families!”

Animal care techs have a labor-intensive job, and they deal with some less-than-glamorous clean-up situations. But for everything they do, we thank them for their tireless dedication to the cats.

*This team currently consists of eight staff members: Riley Baumgartner (she/her), Kelly Cunningham (she/her), Caitlin Dewolf (they/them), Michelle Duvall (she/her), Lincoln Landrum (he/him), Tristan Perez (he/him), Abi Schlag (she/her), and Jenna Shows (she/her).*

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Dany Tanguay

### Foster Parent, Seminar Assistant and Shelter Organization Volunteer

Meet one of CCS’ talented volunteers! Dany started volunteering for Cat Care Society in 2022 and has been an invaluable part of our team ever since. Dany’s day job is serving as a marketing manager for an international industrial company. Beginning as a foster parent for CCS, Dany said she liked the environment and the shelter so much that as soon as applications for volunteers opened, she quickly applied.

Where there is clutter, Dany can be found making the spaces around CCS nice and tidy. She assists the foster team with tasks like supply organization, inventory and paperwork, and occasionally helps organize the Nibble & Kibbles room as needed, too. Dany also is crucial in helping the events team help set up for the monthly seminars.

“I love to organize — it’s a thing for me — so every time I walk in the supply room, I can’t help but rearrange and put things where they belong, even if two hours later it will be moved again,” she said.

We give a huge THANK YOU to Dany for her service to CCS. Follow along with her foster adventures on Instagram and TikTok @danysmittenkittens.



“I enjoy being able to give back and help; everyone there works hard, and they are very busy, so I am glad I can do things that I know are needed that they don’t have time to do. I also get to meet other foster parents and the cats, so that’s always a plus.”

If you’re interested in volunteering, learn more and apply at [www.catcaresociety.org/volunteer](http://www.catcaresociety.org/volunteer). Applications are open from August 1-15.



# Starting Over After Losing Your Cat

By Linda Brandon, advisory board member

I am often saddened when people who have lost a beloved pet cat say they cannot bear the pain of adopting a new cat or kitten. It seems they are missing the joy of giving a new cat a home. It is possible to form a wonderful bond with a new cat. Every cat is different, but they will still hold a special place in your heart.

I have two cats now who are beloved family members. One cat never replaces another; however, they do present the opportunity for a new bond of love and friendship. Lilyana Bella Marie Rose is 16 years young and came from the Longmont Humane Society. We had just lost Monet at the age of 20+ years. Monet could not be replaced, but Lilyana has become a constant companion and dear friend. She follows me everywhere and is a lap cat.

Douglas Tyler Thomas Milsybops came from CCS as a kitten seven years ago, after we sadly lost Tyler Vaughn Tipperary from complications of colon cancer. Tyler was also from CCS, where he crawled up my chest and wrapped himself around my neck in the shelter. Tyler was strictly my cat, soul mate and life partner.

I was sure I would never be as close to Douglas as I had been to Tyler. Douglas is his own man while taking on many characteristics of Tyler and another cat, Miles Milsybops. Douglas has become a snuggler like Miles. He currently sleeps on top of me or beside me every night. He warms my feet when he lays with me on the sofa. Douglas loves both of us but leans toward his momma. He had Tyler's stoic loyalty and is always glad to see me.

He and Lilyana slowly developed a strong bond, even though she did not like him at first. All he wanted was a friend and a playmate. They now snuggle up together at the fireplace and on the sofa.



Sign up for the Cat Care Society bi-weekly Mewsletter at [catcaresociety.org/publications](https://catcaresociety.org/publications) to be the first to know about upcoming events and shelter news!

In a very short time, my brother and his wife, my nephew, and my niece all lost beloved cats. They said they could not bear the loss of losing one more. They even talked each other out of starting over with another cat. Finally, my niece did a great thing — she adopted an older cat. She knew everyone wanted a kitten, but she felt a more mature cat would fit their lifestyle.



Douglas Tyler Thomas Milsybops

This article would not be complete if I did not mention that some people should not adopt. If you cannot provide a safe, primarily indoor existence for a cat, you might reconsider adopting. Many people adopted cats during COVID and returned them when they went back to the office. A cat needs shelter, companionship (to a degree), food, water, toys and a litterbox. Most can be left alone while you go to work or other places. They *do* need you to pay attention to them and make them feel special when you are home.

Cat Care Society has many great cats for adoption. Your best friend and companion are just waiting for you to meet them and fall in love! The adoption assistants at Cat Care Society can help you with a new addition to your home. If you have recently lost a cat or have never had one, stop by today. The staff will be happy to help you find the right cat for your home.



Miles Milsybops

## Tails of the Painted Cats

We were pleased to see the great turnout at the Lakewood Arts Council Gallery in May when the painted cat sculptures and canvases enjoyed their first public showing. They have since moved to the Lakewood Cultural Center at 470 South Allison Parkway, and will exhibit there through August 14.



Frida Catlo by Julie Kitzes

You might wonder how they get around. Well, with a lot of help. It generally takes about five cars to transport them around town. The large ones generally ride shotgun in the front seats and the rest are wrapped in blankets or padded boxes provided by the artists. In August, they will return to the shelter for inspection prior to being auctioned off at the gala. Sometimes, a bit of touch-up is required from being on the road. They will finally be transported to the Baldoria Event Center, ready to seek their forever home.

A popular auction table at the event features canvases we call "Flat Cats," which are 12 x 12" gallery-style canvases with deep-painted sides that do not require frames. This year, we have 20 canvases currently being exhibited at the Cultural Center, along with the sculptures.

Participating Flat Cat artists are Melissa Barbee, Julia Blanchard, Charlie Casper, Sandra Davis, Sarah Derosier, Jane Dorsey, Colleen Garman, Sally Grum, Amethyst Johannes, Kathee Jones, Michelle King, Julie Kitzes, Haley Knowles, Jackie McFarland, Jill McFarland, Martha Pompeo, Glenda Sanchez, Jasmine Sanchez, Laura Scott and Ailene Springer.

### 2023 Gala Information

Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 5 - 9 pm  
Baldoria on the Water Event Center, Lakewood



Tickets are now on sale, and early bird prices end July 31.  
Learn more and register at [www.catcaresociety.org/topc](http://www.catcaresociety.org/topc).

## Save Lives While You Shop

Make a big impact on the lives of cats in Colorado by simply shopping for groceries. Cat Care Society participates in King Soopers' Community Giving Program, which awards non-profits like us free money from your purchases at no extra cost to you.



To get started, sign up for a King Soopers loyalty account – or use your existing one – and link your shopper's card to your account. Designate CCS as your preferred charity. Then, simply swipe your card or enter your ID number at checkout.

For assistance or instructions, ask one of our adoption counselors, email [info@catcaresociety.org](mailto:info@catcaresociety.org), or visit [www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards](http://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards).

## Save On Your Next Catio

If your cat wants outside and you need a solution, consider an outdoor cat enclosure to keep your cat safe and happy. Check out a variety of catio plans by Catio Spaces to suit your style and your feline's fancy.

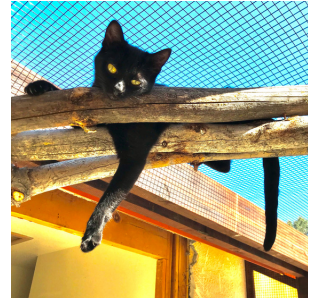


Photo credit: Cat Topia

Save 10% off with promo code `CatCareSociety10` at checkout, and we'll also receive 10% to support our animal welfare work! Check it out at [catiospaces.com](http://catiospaces.com).

And, read more about the benefits of catios and how they can help prevent furniture scratching through an enriching, outdoor environment on our blog. Start reading at [www.catcaresociety.org/blog](http://www.catcaresociety.org/blog).

  
**CommunityShares**  
Colorado's Community Giving Fund  
[www.cshares.org](http://www.cshares.org) or call 303-239-9680

### WORKPLACE GIVING

Check with your employer to see if they accommodate payroll deductions or if they participate in Community Shares of Colorado. Cat Care Society has been a member of Community Shares of Colorado since 1997.



CCS participates in the Combined Federal Campaign annually, as a Community Shares member organization.







5787 W. 6TH AVE  
LAKEWOOD CO, 80214

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DENVER, CO  
PERMIT NO. 4470

Address Service Requested

WE CAN ALWAYS USE THE FOLLOWING  
DOANTIONS FOR THE SHELTER

- Cat litter
- Royal Canin Baby Cat
- Diabetic wet food (Purina D/M is a favorite!)
- Towels
- Toys
- Laundry detergent
- Cat beds & carriers



Visit our **Amazon  
Wishlist** for a convenient  
method of supporting our  
cats without leaving your  
home.



SHELTER HOURS

SUN: NOON - 6 PM  
MON: NOON- 6 PM  
TUE: CLOSED  
WED: CLOSED  
THU: NOON- 6 PM  
FRI: NOON - 6 PM  
SAT: NOON - 6 PM

