



# Animals In Distress, Inc.

*Saving cats since 1968*



## June 2026 Newsletter



Kitten Season is here and in full swing. **We need your help to continue saving the lives of the small and vulnerable.**



Visit [animals-in-distress.org](https://animals-in-distress.org) to donate online or to purchase much-needed items from our Chewy and Amazon wish lists. To donate by check, please mail to  
**Animals in Distress,  
P.O. Box 3373,  
Mercerville, NJ 08619.**

We are grateful for your support!

**SO  
CUTE**



## First of the Season: Dolce & her babies

To the dismay of the two trappers who worked days-on-end to neuter a colony of outdoor kitties, a very pregnant cat named Dolce evaded their every attempt. The idea of babies being born outdoors is a distressing one to rescue volunteers and trappers trying to stop repopulation in an area. Eventually in mid-April, AID received the call that Dolce had her babies and was hunkered down in a homemade plastic bin cat shelter. With the element of surprise, volunteers trapped her in the shelter and transported Dolce and her babies to their new foster home. With bated breath, and unsure of how many kittens were in the litter (LESS IS MORE), the lid of the storage bin was lifted to find 3 little angels: Biscoff (brown tabby tuxedo), Snickers (tabico), and Toffee (brown tabby tuxedo). At only 3-days old, they blindly rolled around and squeaked for their mom who was taking the whole kidnapping ordeal more calmly than expected. The babies and mom are thriving in their foster home.



## Forever Loved: Shadow

A common story that we hear way too often: a cat's owner(s) passes away, and their surviving family dumps the cat outdoors instead of trying to find a proper home. Defenseless with no way to feed themselves, it's a miracle these poor souls survive. This was the case of Shadow, a 12-year old crusty little lady who found herself outdoors and living with a feral colony for 5+ years after her owners died of COVID in 2020. Her relief to be in a warm, safe space was immediately apparent once she was brought into her foster home during the first snowstorm in December. She picked her favorite comfy bed to lay in as "her spot" and devoured every meal.

Upon medical testing it was determined that Shadow had hyperthyroidism, a condition that causes extreme hunger and thirst and would have made her existence outdoors very difficult. Volunteers fell in love with this sweet old lady with one white whisker and a lazy eye. It became apparent during her time with AID that there were more illness lying under the surface. Imaging revealed that Shadow had been suffering from cancer in her lungs, liver and spleen. She spent her golden months indoors being spoiled and snuggled until it became apparent it was her time. We miss her dearly.



## To the Family I've Been Waiting for...

*"I am a super loving lap cat looking for a snuggly human who enjoys curling up in blankets as much as I do. If you want a couch potato to read & watch TV with, and understand the joy that comes from a one & only pet relationship, then I would like to talk to you because we are on the same page. When I'm not cuddling with you, there is a good chance I'll get a burst of play energy and/or just follow you around to supervise any activities you might need help with. Other pets really stress me out. When that happens my body flares up with very painful crystals in my bladder, so I am on a special diet to keep that from happening. My situation right now is very sad and I really need a friend. If you aren't sure if you are ready for a full commitment, I am available to foster as a trial to see if we are a match."*

*Love, Sasha <3*



Visit

[www.animals-in-distress.org/adoptions](http://www.animals-in-distress.org/adoptions)

## A Happy Ending for Mr. Fat Cheeks!

It is a rare occurrence for a Tom Cat (a large, unfixated male cat with a huge head) to be people-friendly, let alone walk up to trappers and rub himself all over the trap. Fluffernutter was the main prize when it came to TNRing this colony. When he walked around the corner with his big fat cheeks and beautiful green eyes, the trappers gasped. After he peacefully walked himself under the trap, he proceeded to stretch out and take a nap. AID immediately knew we needed to rehabilitate this sweet boy. We learned that he had belonged to a family who did not get him neutered or provide any vet care, and dumped him outdoors when they moved away.

What was once a domesticated house cat unnecessarily morphed into a big cat-daddy, fathering many feral children over the years and inflating his cheeks. After being neutered and vaccinated, he was brought into a foster home. The foster was slightly nervous: Would he act like an outdoor cat indoors? Be destructive? Would we have to release him back into his colony? To the foster's relief, he immediately reverted to being a house cat, leaving the wild days behind him. A big comfy, fluffy bed? Oh yes. The top of a cat tree? Oh yeah. Consistent meals delivered on time every day? Yes please. It became clear that Fluffernutter was a gentle giant. A perfect cat. So perfect, he spent less than a week in the Cat Cottage before being adopted by a lovely couple. From rags to riches!



## Pro Tip: Watch out for poisonous plants!

If you've noticed that your cat has a tendency to eat plants and leaves, it's a good idea to do some research because a lot of plants are poisonous and deadly to them. We recommend keeping harmful plants out of your home completely or putting them in a place entirely out of your cat's reach (on top of tall furniture, hanging from the ceiling). Aloe, Alcoasia, Azalea, Chrysanthemum, Mistletoe, Poinsettia, Rhododendron, Snake Plants, Tulip, Holly, and ESPECIALLY Lillies, are a big no-no. This is only a partial listing of plants that may be harmful to your cat. Visit [ASPICA](https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-prevention) for a more comprehensive list.



If you think your cat has eaten a poisonous plant, look for irritation, inflammation, swelling, or itchiness on their skin or around their mouth. If the toxicity of the plant affects a particular organ, you may notice the following symptoms: difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive water consumption or urination, drooling or difficulty swallowing.

Try to identify which plant your cat has consumed. This will help your veterinarian treat your furry friend. If your cat is throwing up or clawing at his mouth, you may want to call the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 213-6680 to determine next steps, but you'll most likely want to head to the ER.



## Forever Loved: Munchkin

Every once in a while rescuers happen upon a cat that has been living outdoors and we ask ourselves, “how have you survived this long?” Munchkin was a prime example of this, known by the people who looked after her outdoor colony as “Shaky”. Munchkin got herself stuck in a crawlspace in a building that she had a very hard time navigating on more than one occasion. She had “tremors” which caused her head to shake back and forth and general balance issues. Small stairs proved difficult for her. AID couldn’t bear to leave her in that environment. She lived with the most dedicated foster mom who spent time with her doing “daily PT.” She made close kitty friends in her foster space with other foster kitties and enjoyed the comfiest accommodations accompanied by endless affection. She loved to play with toys even though it was a little bit more difficult for her to keep her footing while doing so. She was such a sweet and snuggly girl.



Her vet could not pinpoint exactly what was going on with Munchkin without neurologic diagnostics costing thousands of dollars, so the plan was made to keep an eye on her for a little while and see how things went. The main culprits theorized were storage syndrome, a neurodegenerative disorder which would eventually prove fatal, or cerebellar hyperplasia a.k.a. “wobbly cat syndrome” which causes motions like Munchkin was experiencing. After five lovely months in foster, our sweet Munchkin started showing signs of deterioration. We consulted with a neurologist who confirmed the worst case scenario: storage syndrome. The goal was then to make her last weeks on earth as special as possible, and her foster mom did just that. The decision was made to peacefully say goodbye to Munchkin. We, and most especially her foster mom who planned on adopting her, miss her greatly.



# Happy Endings: Sick Kittens in Winter



In an ideal world, kittens would never be born outdoors. They are incredibly susceptible to infectious and stress-related illnesses. What compounds the effects of this? Being born during the cold snap of Winter 2025/2026. The Doctor Who litter (named: Donna, Captain Jack, Martha, Wilfred, Clara, Davros, and Bannakaffalatta) were captured in an outdoor cat colony during the first major snowstorm in mid-December. They were only 8-10 weeks old and born from different mothers. Not long after bringing them indoors to their foster home, illness ensued. Captain Jack and Wilfred developed horrible upper respiratory infections. For weeks, high fevers and lack of appetite required subQ fluids and syringe feeding; horribly inflamed conjunctivitis (pink-eye) required 3-times daily eye antibiotics; and both anti-viral and antibiotic medications were administered. Then, every rescue's worst nightmare: panleukopenia, a deadly and highly contagious infectious illness that depletes the body's white blood cell count and damages the lining of the intestines.



Only 50% of kittens who contract the virus survive with supportive care. Very sadly, Bannakaffalatta quickly succumbed to the infection. A couple of days later, Donna came down with the same condition. With subQ fluids, anti-nausea medication, antibiotics, syringe feeding, and eventually hospitalization, Donna made a full recovery with no lasting effects of the illness. The other kittens in the litter spiked fevers, but never broke with the illness.

These kittens turned into healthy little lovebugs and were quickly adopted into their forever homes.

**Vaccinate your cats to protect them from deadly infectious diseases such as Panleukopenia, Calicivirus, Viral Rhinotracheitis, and Rabies.** Indoor-only cats need vaccines too. Being indoors does not mean zero exposure to infectious diseases. Kittens should be FVRCP vaccinated from 6 weeks old and then every 3 weeks until 4 months old. Adults should be vaccinated every year. Rabies vaccines should be given yearly, and eventually every 3 years.



27

# forever homes found so far in 2026...



Dax



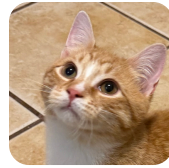
Sophia



Cedar



Martha



Wilfred



Davros



Fiona



Aspen



Willow



Lady Sansa



Clara



Louis



Mango



Molly



Hazel



Helene



Rudy



Robert



Bunny



Captain Jack



Winston



Emmy



Bean



Brooklyn



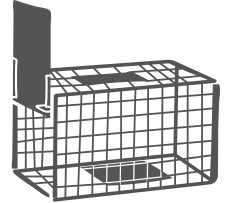
Fluffernutter



Adam

20+

## feral cats Trap-Neuter-Released so far in 2026, saving 80+ cats from being born outdoors and repopulating.



### Special Adoption Highlight: Sophia

Our darling Sophia was with AID for over two years. This poor mama gave birth to her three babies in a dumpster at Mercer County Park. A local trapper caught the small family and brought them inside for fostering. Sophia did an excellent job raising her babies Bella Mia, Frankie and Rocco, who all found their forever homes. Sophia was not the happiest to be indoors and did not seek human affection for a while. Over time living with some very social cat friends in her new foster home, she began to bond with her foster mom and dad. Still skittish and with some triggers, we knew it would take a while to find a special someone to take a chance on her.

Little did we expect that her angels would find her from social media and travel from New Hampshire! Her adopters selflessly committed to our Sophia knowing all of her little quirks. She is thriving in her new home with her friend, Leroy, and even became a lap cat! We greatly appreciate our adopters who go for the harder cases.



# We need your help to continue saving the lives of cats and kittens in need.



Visit [animals-in-distress.org](https://animals-in-distress.org) to donate online or to purchase much-needed items from our Chewy and Amazon wish lists. To donate by check, please mail to:  
**Animals in Distress,**  
**P.O. Box 3373,**  
**Mercerville, NJ 08619.**  
 We are grateful for your support!

Your monetary donations help us provide:

- **Food and Nutrition:** Providing food for cats in the shelter and in foster, including special diets for those with medical conditions.
- **Medical Care:** Covering the costs of veterinary check-ups, diagnostics, vaccinations, medications, surgeries, and emergency treatment.
- **Shelter and Housing:** Maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for cats, including housing, bedding, litter boxes, and enrichment items.
- **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR):** Supporting TNR efforts when we can to humanely manage feral cat populations.
- **Facility Maintenance:** Covering the costs of rent, utilities, and upkeep for our adoption room.

## STAY CONNECTED



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**\$20** covers the cost of feeding one kitten for a week

**\$30** provides vaccines for an adult cat

**\$60** covers the cost of one T-N-R

**\$100** covers the cost of one spay/neuter

**\$250** provides medical care for a kitten to be ready for adoption

**\$500** helps cover the cost of ER trips and speciality surgeries

## In Loving Memory of...

Our friends:

- Billy Blair
- Hank Peters
- Howard Eisenbeis
- Thomas & Joyce Garsky
- George Oliger



Our fur friends:

- Janey & Darla
- Squish
- Loki Davis
- Gabi Olchvary
- Patches Salmi
- Pumpkin Traynor
- Munchkin Reres
- Shadow
- Bannakaffalatta
- Charles Hu
- Molly Lowe
- Fat Cat Hu



# Thank You

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newsletter!**

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