



PETA's augustus CLUB

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Cats' Biggest Defender:

PETA Reveals Hidden Cruelty, Stops Abuse, and Saves Lives

From Disney movies to nursery rhymes to Broadway musicals, cats have played a starring role in our folklore, art, and home life for centuries. It seems all the more incongruous, then, that such a beloved animal would fall victim to the kinds of cruelty discovered by PETA investigators and caseworkers every day.

Fortunately, through the support of Augustus Club members like you, we are able to pull out all the stops in behalf of our feline friends in need. Here are just some of the ways in which your support has enabled PETA to create a better future for cats everywhere.



Ella, rescued by PETA

advertisements starring high-profile celebrities—including pop superstar Justin Bieber and Oscar-nominated actor Mickey Rourke—we've reached countless people all around the world with our message to spay and neuter companion animals, adopt from animal shelters, and never buy from breeders or pet stores. PETA also works for the passage of laws requiring animal shelters and pet stores to sterilize animals before releasing them.

Thanks to PETA, homeless cats in the impoverished, rural town of Windsor, N.C., are no longer made to languish in the town's ramshackle animal pound. The old structure—nothing

Homeless Cats

For every cat who lives with a human family and receives the love and care that he or she needs, there are tens of thousands who are just barely surviving. Millions of cats live hard lives on the streets before enduring equally hard, agonizing deaths. Strays starve to death, freeze, get hit by cars, or die from diseases.

PETA has spared countless cats from these fates by attacking the problem at its roots through our mobile spay-and-neuter clinics (see article on page 6) and educational outreach campaigns. With eye-catching

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Modern shelter in Windsor, N.C., financed by PETA



more than a shack with pens made of chicken wire and rotting wood—left animals exposed to the elements. But with funds raised by PETA, the town has a modern, new facility in which cats enjoy clean, comfortable housing in the safety of a climate-controlled building.

But other dangers await many homeless cats—even those who have made it from the streets into an animal shelter. Some homeless cats are picked up by dealers called “bunchers,” who then sell them to laboratories to be used in experiments.

Cats in Laboratories

PETA’s undercover investigation of laboratories at the University of Utah revealed that the school was experimenting on lost, stray, and abandoned cats and dogs whom it purchased from local animal shelters.

Soon after we went public with our investigation, however, the Utah state legislature repealed its

mandatory pound-seizure law, which had denied shelters the right to refuse to sell animals to laboratories. After months of further pressure from PETA, the University of Utah announced that it would no longer obtain cats and dogs from animal shelters. Because the university was the only facility in the state licensed to buy animals from shelters for experiments, this marked a complete end to pound seizure in Utah!

Every year, we continue to build on our successes in stopping the use of cats in experiments and training exercises. Last year, after more than a year of pressure from PETA, the University of Michigan (U-M) announced that it had replaced the use of cats in its Survival Flight training course for nurses with modern and superior computerized human simulators.

This means that cats will no longer have hard plastic tubes repeatedly forced down their delicate windpipes

before being killed. U-M’s announcement came just one day after PETA released an exposé documenting the school’s purchase of lost, stolen, and homeless cats from a notorious animal dealer and revealing that school officials had misled the public about the fate of the cats used in the course.

U-M is just the most recent of dozens of schools and other medical facilities that PETA has convinced to replace cats with state-of-the-art human manikins for intubation training. In fact, after PETA informed the American Heart Association (AHA) that some AHA-affiliated training centers were still instructing students in intubation by using live kittens and ferrets, the AHA wrote to all of its affiliated training centers—more than

Inside dark, windowless storage units were filthy, cramped cages, each containing up to four cats, most of whom had never been allowed out—some were confined for years!

1,500 facilities—citing PETA’s concerns. In the letter, the AHA stated that it does not require or endorse the use of live animals in any of its training courses. The organization went on to specifically say that if PETA launched campaigns against any of its affiliated training centers that continued to cruelly use animals, the AHA would not defend the facilities!

Three more exciting victories resulted from a PETA undercover investigation of Professional Laboratory and Research Services, Inc. (PLRS). First, the laboratory surrendered almost 250 cats and other animals who were then placed into loving homes—never again will these animals be purposely infested with parasites, forced to ingest toxic chemicals, or kicked, thrown, or dragged by abusive employees. Second, PLRS closed permanently! (PETA is the only animal protection organization that has ever been responsible

for shutting down an animal testing facility.) And third, former workers at the laboratory were indicted on criminal charges of cruelty to animals—the first-ever felony cruelty charges against U.S. laboratory staff.

The Fur Trade

Another industry that exploits and kills cats—although it comes as a shock to most people—is the fur trade. Every year, millions of cats and dogs in China are bludgeoned, strangled with wire nooses, bled to death, and hanged and for their fur.

A wave of panic surely swept through the fur industry when undercover video footage of the Chinese trade in dog and cat fur—taken by investigators from PETA Germany and PETA Asia—was shown on a BBC program watched by millions. The video footage was also watched by millions more online and served as the knockout punch in our campaign against fur sales by J.Crew. The company confirmed that it would no longer sell fur just days after our dog and cat fur exposé aired on televisions worldwide.



Celebrities Melissa Ferrick and Tricia Helfer speak up for cats



Poor conditions in Windsor, N.C., prior to PETA's intervention



Cruelty and Neglect

PETA is also the number one defender of cats against animal hoarders. As a result of a PETA undercover investigation, more than 230 cats were seized from a South Carolina cat hoarder's facility disturbingly misnamed Sacred Vision Animal Sanctuary.

Inside dark, windowless storage units were filthy, cramped cages, each containing up to four cats, most of whom had never been allowed out—some were confined for years! While those suffering most severely—e.g., from chronic conditions such as herpes, tumors, and seizures—were euthanized, more than 100 cats were put up for adoption into loving homes. The hoarder is scheduled to go to trial on related charges.

Another recent PETA undercover investigation—released just weeks ago—resulted in the seizure of all animals from Caboodle Ranch, Inc., in Madison County, Fla. Our investigator discovered that the approximately 700 cats at the “no-kill” facility lived in deplorable conditions on a disease-ridden property. Many cats were confined to crowded kennels, dilapidated, moldy trailers reeking of ammonia, and impossible-to-sanitize wooden sheds.

The founder and operator of this self-proclaimed “cat rescue sanctuary,” Craig Grant, denied our investigator's offers to rush cats for veterinary care for upper respiratory infections, ulcerated and bleeding eyes, and other illnesses and painful injuries. Ailing cats had gnats and other insects swarming around them and were forced to endure disgusting living areas covered with vomit, trash, and waste. Based on our evidence, Grant now faces several charges of cruelty to animals, including a felony, as well as a felony charge of scheming to defraud those who gave him money.



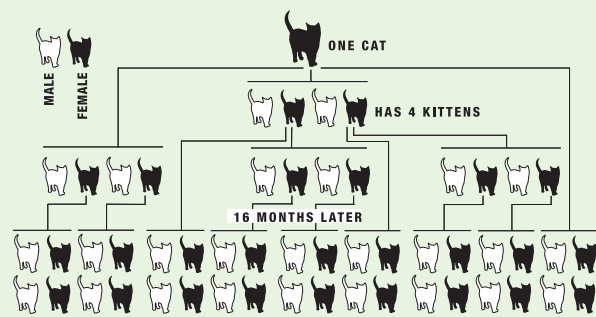
This cat, named “Okay,” was denied veterinary care for an upper respiratory infection and significant dental disease at Sacred Vision before PETA rescued her.

PETA has also saved countless cats from dangerous situations through our hands-on rescue work (see article on page 6) and through the work of our Emergency Response Team (ERT). Responding to the more than 300 cruelty reports received every week, not a week goes by that the ERT isn't coordinating the rescue of a cat stranded atop a utility pole, prompting the seizure of cats by legal authorities from neglectful or abusive owners, or facilitating the removal of a cat left behind in an abandoned home by former tenants.

Of course, none of this vital work would be possible without the support of generous, caring people like you. Thank you so much for being a part of our Augustus Club and helping us work toward a world in which all cats are given the love and respect they deserve.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Research shows that in addition to protecting animals, simulators better prepare medical professionals to treat seriously ill or injured children because they more accurately replicate human anatomy and allow people to practice these skills repeatedly. Please contact Mark S. Wrighton, the chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, at wrighton@wustl.edu or 314-935-5100. Politely urge him to replace the use of cats and ferrets for intubation training with human simulators at the university.



One unspayed female cat and her generations of offspring can produce a whopping 370,000 cats in just seven years.

Top Five Myths About Cats

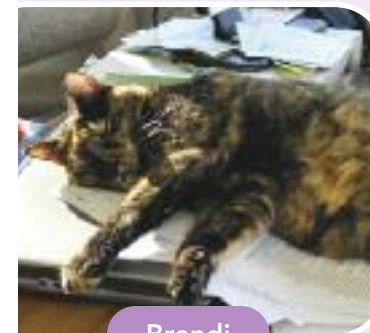
—From PETA's Resident Authorities: Brandi, Bubbles, and Marshall

In 2010, because of the catastrophic BP oil leak, animal shelters on the Gulf Coast could not keep up with the flood of animals whose guardians had lost their jobs and were moving out of the area. After sending a rescue team to several animal shelters in the region, PETA rescued almost 70 cats and dogs, who were then placed into loving, permanent homes.

Many of the cats were from an animal shelter that describes itself as a “no-kill” facility. We chose cats whose needs were the most dire—those who had been there the longest (one cat had been at the facility for six years!) and those who were older, sick, or injured and

therefore having the roughest time. Thanks to the help of members like you, these dear souls received the special care that they badly needed and were spared what could have been many more years spent in crowded, unhealthy, and highly stressful conditions—the fate to which so many well-intentioned “no-kill” facilities condemn animals.

PETA's Norfolk, Va., headquarters is now the permanent residence of Brandi, Bubbles, and Marshall—three cats who came from the “no-kill” shelter. This trio would like to tell you about themselves while also engaging in a bit of myth-busting.



Brandi

Myth 1: Cats Are Happiest Outdoors

Brandi: Nonsense. Sure, a sunny, grassy meadow sounds great. But you know what isn't great? Getting hit by cars, getting hit with rocks by mean people, and trying to stay warm when it's cold or dry when it's raining. And diseases?

Parasites? Yuck. I've got plenty of daylight coming through our large windows and a breeze to enjoy at the screen door.

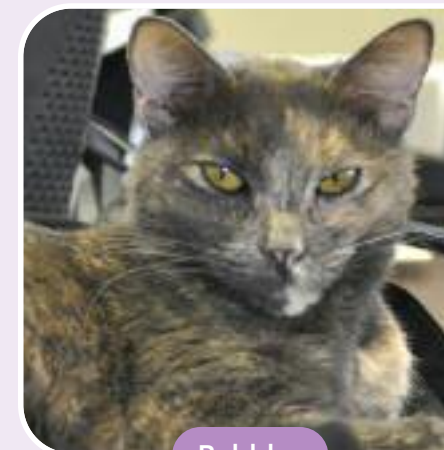
I'm all about finding a nice spot to curl up in with my pal Bubbles so we can give each other facials. The outdoors would never do for that. We much prefer the office of the PETA Foundation's corporate counsel, Paula Hough. Bonus: We get to “accessorize” her sweater with our fur.

Besides, it's not good for birds and other small animals when we cats are left outside. You can tell by my prized rubber lizard—which I like to carry around and whose feet I have bitten off—that I'm a skilled hunter. Even though I “work” at PETA, if I were outside, I think my instincts would take over and ... well, let's just say it's better for everyone that I'm an indoor gal.

Myth 2: Declawing Is Harmless

Bubbles: Yikes! I want to keep my toes! That's right, I said toes, not just claws. Declawing involves amputating the last joint of a cat's toes. This greatly affects our balance. Declawed cats have to relearn to walk, just like you would if you lost your toes.

My human officemates marvel at my gymnastic finesse as I scale the backs of their chairs and jump across the tops of their chair backs like a capuchin monkey. Think how sad I'd be if someone put a damper on my acrobatics by mutilating my toes.



Bubbles

We cats are smart. It's easy to teach us what you don't want us to scratch. As long as you give us some great options like a sisal post or a cardboard scratcher, we're happy to leave the couch intact.

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A Snip in Time SAVES LIVES!



Local animals helped by PETA's spay-and-neuter van

An estimated 6 to 8 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately 3 to 4 million of them must

be euthanized. Sadly, less than a third of cats who enter animal shelters get adopted—70 percent must be euthanized.

Sterilization is the key to ending this tragedy. But if a family is struggling just to put food on the table, the cost and the inaccessibility of veterinary care can be obstacles to spaying or neutering.

PETA makes these obstacles a non-issue for impoverished residents of disadvantaged areas in the South by operating three state-of-the-art mobile spay-and-neuter clinics that target and serve low-income clients in rural, poverty-stricken counties in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

These clinics operate in areas where there are often no other veterinary services available, let alone affordable options for spay-and-neuter services.

In 2011, PETA spayed or neutered 10,564 animals—6,347 cats (including 1,200 feral cats), 4,203 dogs, and 14 rabbits—at either no cost or a low cost to their guardians, who otherwise would not have been able to afford the

procedures. The total number of animals sterilized since the start of the program in 2001 is more than 80,000!

PETA also offers tests, vaccinations, minor surgeries, and flea prevention and treatment. We even have a special van to transport animals to and from the clinic for clients who have no car or other transportation available.

In addition to serving clients directly, PETA has created a model collaborative effort with local animal shelters and rescue groups to ensure that animals are spayed and neutered **before** adoption. We also strengthen the efforts of rescue organizations and groups that manage feral cat colonies by providing them with a reduced rate for feline leukemia and AIDS testing as well as spay-and-neuter surgeries.

To promote the program, we do proactive canvassing and leafleting in target neighborhoods. Our clinics are emblazoned with original artwork by *Mutts* cartoonist Patrick McDonnell as well as with photos of television mogul Simon Cowell, model and reality show star Kimora Lee Simmons, NBA premier defender Ron Artest, and NFL linebacker Aaron Curry—celebrity images are a great way to attract clients and raise people's interest in the clinics.

We are grateful to our Augustus Club members for enabling us to offer such crucial services that dramatically improve the quality of life for cats and other animals in need.

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Myth 3: All Cats Hate Water

Bubbles: Are you kidding me? Just ask my officemates how many times they've walked back into their office to find me gleefully playing with a puddle on their desk from the glass of water they so kindly left for me to knock over.

If you have a kitty friend at home, try leaving a thin trickle of water running from a faucet for a few minutes and see what happens. Whether drinking from it, playing with it, or just staring at it in fascination, chances are good that your kitty friend will love it!

Myth 4: Feral Cats Can Fend for Themselves

Marshall: Gosh, I know this is an emotional and much-debated issue. I also know the people who take such good care of me care about all cats. PETA's mobile veterinary clinics offer spay-and-neuter surgeries and testing for feline leukemia and FIV (feline AIDS) at a reduced rate for groups that manage feral cat colonies.

My friends at PETA have in the past trapped, neutered, returned, and monitored feral cats (and still do, in favorable situations) but not without hesitation and serious concerns. Homeless cats do not die of old age. Wounds, injuries, highly contagious diseases, infections, attacks by other animals or cruel humans, car accidents, freezing or sweltering temperatures, and food scarcity—these are everyday hazards for my feral cousins.

A properly managed feral colony requires a tremendous amount of time, resources, energy, and organization and a very specific environment. It means that the cats have to be isolated from roads, people, and other animals and located in an area where they do not have access to wildlife and where the weather is temperate. It also means ensuring that all cats in the colony are humanely captured, sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, ear-tipped to identify those who have been sterilized and vaccinated, provided with a sanitary feeding station with fresh water and food, given access

to shelter, treated for illnesses and injuries, and accepted by neighbors and landlords. Most important of all, it means ensuring that no new kittens are born.

Most "managed" feral cat colonies don't meet these requirements. And no matter how noble the intentions, "managing" a feral cat colony that falls below these standards ultimately endangers the cats. Worse, some people actually argue that sterilizing and abandoning cats (that's not management!) is more humane than taking them to an animal shelter, where they might be euthanized! Having witnessed firsthand the gruesome things that regularly happen to my cousins living feral on the streets, PETA cannot in good conscience oppose euthanasia as an alternative to a poorly managed colony that only perpetuates the cat homelessness crisis.

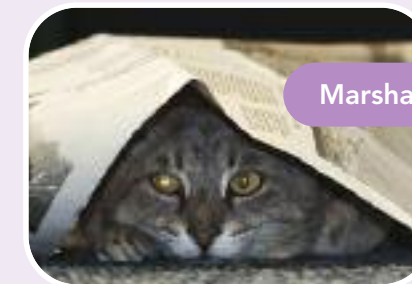
Myth 5: Cats Can Be Left Alone for a Few Days at a Time

Marshall: No! In addition to the possibility of something dangerous happening, we also miss our people. For instance, my favorite person in the world is Meredith Cuffee in the PETA Foundation's Membership Services Department. Every weekday, I take my morning nap on her lap, and then afterward, I hang out on my very own chair right next to hers. But on weekends, Meredith and all the rest of the humans are gone.

It's not so bad because I still have my pals Bubbles and Brandi for company. But I sure am glad that the staff rotates caretaking duties on Saturdays and Sundays—not just because we like our litterboxes cleaned and our food and water bowls refilled or because that person spends time playing with us. It's also because it's important to make sure that we're OK. My friends at PETA know of cats who have accidentally shut themselves into rooms or closets with no food or water, become injured, swallowed something dangerous, or had other accidents happen when their guardians were away. If left for days unchecked, situations like these can escalate into emergencies. If you have to be away from home, please don't let your feline friends go for more than 12 hours without care and monitoring by a reliable person.



Marshall and Bubbles



Marshall



Daniella and Datona

Famous Reasons to Plan Your Estate Properly

By *Daniella Ramadei, Philanthropic Specialist*

As a philanthropic specialist, I enjoy assisting members who want to leave a legacy for animals through an estate gift to PETA. Although everyone's estate differs, it is in everyone's best interests to spend time making a plan. Below, I have put together the first of a two-part series highlighting a few famous examples that illustrate why even with the best of intentions, improperly planned estates can result in excessive court battles and unfulfilled wishes.

Lesson 1: Finalize Your Documents With an Estate Planning Attorney

Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Earl Burger died with a one-page holographic (handwritten) will, leaving his entire estate to his children. The document did not include common instructions as required by Virginia law. This meant that more than \$500,000—money intended for his beneficiaries—was spent petitioning the probate court to fix these errors.

- Review your documents with an experienced estate-planning attorney to ensure that necessary language is included. Also remember that some states do not uphold handwritten wills as legal documents.

Lesson 2: Incorporate Specific Wishes Into Your Will

Princess Diana's "letter of wishes" asked her executors to divide at their discretion her personal property among her 17 godchildren, which would have resulted in approximately \$163,000 for each child. However, this document was not legally binding as she did not make reference to it in her properly made will. At the executors' "discretion," each godchild was given only a trinket, such as an incomplete tea set.

- Establish clear guidelines for the distribution of personal and other property in your legal documents.

This is also true for your charitable intentions.

Lesson 3: Update Your Documents After Life Changes

Actor Heath Ledger wrote a will before his daughter was born that left everything to his parents and siblings. In some states, this would have meant that his daughter inherited nothing. But New York protects "after-born" children from unintentional disinheritance by viewing the decedent as having died intestate (without a will), which means all assets go to the first line of heirs—children. Therefore, his daughter received everything, while his parents and siblings received nothing.

- It is critical to update your documents after life-changing events, such as marriage, divorce, and the birth of a child, as there is often no legal protection for your loved ones' inheritance. Also, always explicitly state in the document if you want to disinherit a possible beneficiary.

These are just a few of the many reasons for properly planning your estate. Please contact an estate-planning and/or elder law attorney to finalize your plans in order to ensure that you provide for your health, your loved ones, and your philanthropic intentions.



More tips to come in part 2 of Daniella's article in our Summer 2012 issue!