



December 2013

Greetings dearest Friends of Touched By A Paw Cat Rescue and Shelter:

It is as much an honor to be writing you this year as it had been to compose those past Christmas letters requesting your help on behalf of Touched By A Paw. Words could never convey my deep gratitude, sincere appreciation, and unfeigned love because you never failed in responding, and at times the gifts literally rescued Touched By A Paw enabling us to continue our labor of love for those who needed rescuing the most—all of the forsaken cats and kittens that God puts in our midst.

One of those cats was Squeaky. She was a semi feral cat that was spayed, vaccinated and released back into the colony of cats that she came from. The colony is provided with food, water and insulated, weatherproof habitats. On a warm Spring day Squeaky was laying under a brush pile. Two young men hired to burn brush, not knowing Squeaky was there, poured gasoline on the brush pile and ignited it. Squeaky managed to escape but was badly burned on her face and paws. She was spotted by volunteers several times but would run away. It took four days to find her. She had succumbed to her pain and injuries and was found lying on the floor of an empty garage on Easter Sunday. Squeaky was rushed to a vet hospital and so began her long recovery and healing. Squeaky left the vet hospital two weeks later and went to a foster home where she continued medical treatment and was showered with love, affection and socialization skills that she had lived without. Squeaky has fully recovered and was adopted by her foster Mom. She is now a happy house cat living with her owner and resident house cat, carrying only her scars as a reminder of her terrible ordeal.



Squeaky after the fire



Squeaky fully recovered

Some folks find it hard to believe that so much effort is put into "animals" and not people. I simply tell them: (1) "If you were the One that had created all things then you would love all things; and (2) "The One who created all things has assigned (their gifts) to certain people to love and care for His special creations."

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Two of the most special creations to come to Touched By A Paw were Micah and Maddie, two sibling kittens, ten weeks old, with deformed hind legs and six toes on all four paws, born in a landlord's garage. A tenant living there was outside and saw the two kittens following their mother cat across a main street. She was able to grab the two kittens because they were slower moving due to their handicap rear legs. With therapy, Micah was able to straighten his legs some. Maddie was not and uses her knees to walk on. Miracles never cease to happen at Touched By A Paw! Two of the most special, warm loving people and friends of Touched By A Paw heard about Micah and Maddie. He and his wife visited the shelter and met Micah and Maddie. His wife expressed that she always wanted to adopt a special needs cat. Her husband, who is a veterinarian also could not resist their sweet, gentle personalities and they adopted both of them. They are delighted with the kittens and have adapted litterboxes and cat climbers to meet their special needs. Best of all, the kittens are in a safe loving home and will thrive.

These cats and kittens had no hope for a better life prior to rescue. We have an expression around the shelter we use a lot: "That was a God thing!"



Cinder is one of three young kittens who came into Touched By A Paw from three separate places. All three had severe eye infections. All three kittens lost both eyes and are living their lives blind. However, to live with them you would never know it. They bat balls all over and never miss. They play and chase with other cats, ducking under chair rungs, as if they have built-in radar. Evie and Cinder were adopted together by a wonderful loving couple who adore them. Witzl was adopted into a home with other cats. All three kittens are doing well.

Touched By A Paw has many more special needs cats that are wonderful and so deserving of a loving home. Some require a special food, some a medication. One sweet, young cat named Nugget is missing a paw from a trap. People who have adopted special needs cats have said the cats are so special in themselves and to them. The blessing goes both ways. No-kill cat rescue shelters as a rule have more special needs cats and kittens because they take in rescues and not surrendered owned cats.

In the past year, Touched By A Paw has faced unprecedented challenges which has seriously depleted our finances.

1. Our main resource for donated canned cat food was reduced permanently to one half the amount.
2. More surgeries required for rescued cats and kittens,
3. Cats and kittens returned that were previously adopted years earlier,
4. Cats and kittens abandoned at our back door.
5. Cats and kittens becoming ill with URI (colds) due to weather changes, which increased medication costs.
6. We apologize and thank those who submitted recipes for our fundraising cookbook. We had to postpone printing due to lack of funds. We plan to print in 2014.

Money we had set aside for the past year to buy materials for a new vinyl tile floor and a more secure, air tight rear door had to be used to buy canned food and medications. We face another winter hanging blankets and rugs by the rear door to keep cold air out. We have a capable young man to do the labor free when money for the materials is available. And sadly we have had to turn away rescue calls to other shelters due to lack of money.

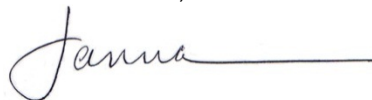
We greatly appreciate those who have been able to send monthly support. If everyone on this mailing list could send \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month, this would take care of Touched By A Paw's monthly expenses for veterinary care, medicines, food, litter and other incidental maintenance costs. We do not take lightly the stewardship of your gifts. Every cent donated to Touched By A Paw goes directly to the care of the cats. We are an all-volunteer shelter. We cherish and respect every gift you send to sustain life and reverse the suffering for these precious creatures. God created them for us all, to refresh our spirit, be our companions, and love us unconditionally.

I am faithfully praying that with your help and through the grace of God we can keep the shelter going for the present cats and the next cat or kitten that needs us, We are overwhelmed with joy and so thankful for all the years all of you who have helped the shelter to provide for those cats and kittens from the storm, from the hateful hand, from the neglectful heart, and the unexplained accident.

On behalf of our volunteer family, the resident cats and kittens, and the hundreds of cats and kittens who have passed through our loving hands on to their new futures, we thank you.

We wish all of you a most blessed Christmas and health and happiness in the coming New Year.

From the heart,



Janna Burhop, President

Let everything that hath breath, Praise the Lord. Psalms 150:16

Touched By A Paw is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

- Check if your company has a Matching Gift program and double your gift!
- Would you consider making a monthly donation.
- Even if you cannot help now, please consider helping the cats in the future and/or leaving a gift in your Estate Plans for them.
- Please send us your e-mail address for future mailings and newsletters.

e-mail – tbapcats@sbcglobal.net

website – www.touchedbyapaw.org

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Touched By A Paw is an all volunteer organization