

Cat Guardians, Inc

A not for profit charitable organization , 501 (c) 3 certified

Summer 2023 Issue



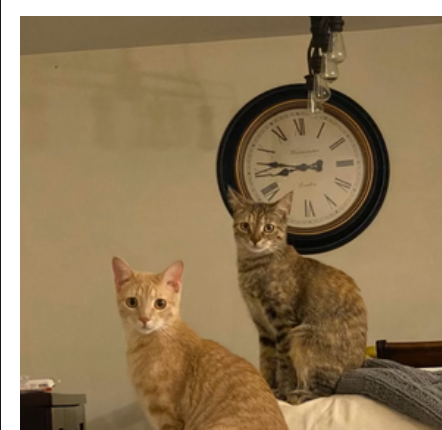
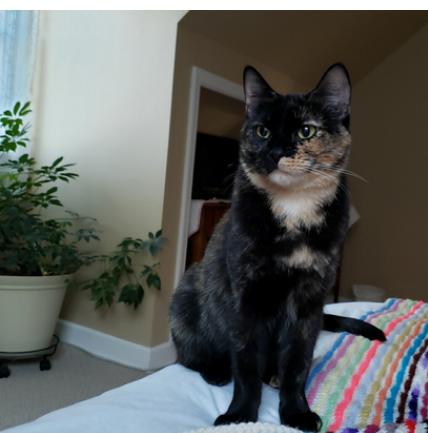
Cat Guardians
Lombard, IL

A no-kill shelter
for cats

932 East Charles Road
Lombard, IL 60148
www.catguardians.org

Kathy, the volunteers, and resident cats
want to **THANK YOU** for helping out the
shelter. We cannot stay open without your
suppor, friendship, and **LOVE** for our
shelter cats.

CG Alumni Pictures



Cat Guardians has been rocking in 2023 with adoptions, as **27 kitties** have gone to loving homes!!!!
Now that is something to celebrate!

Alumni Corner



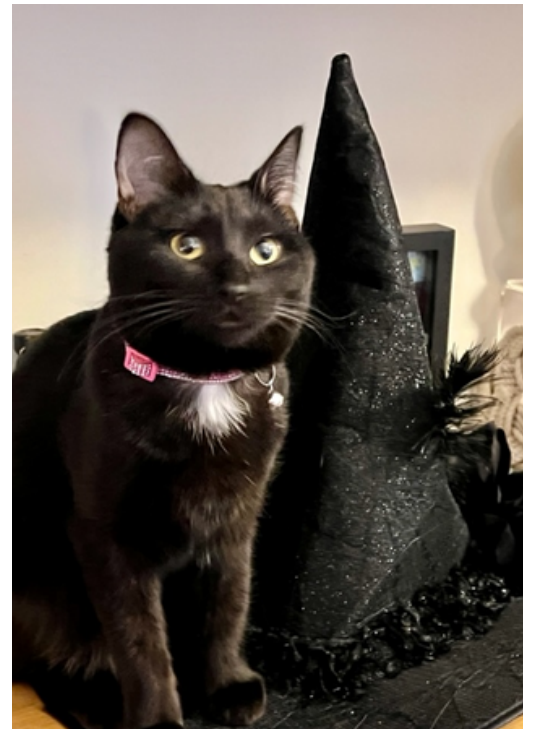
KELSEY AND KARISMA

By Sharon and Michael Prochot

When my husband and I first got married, I had two cats and he had one. Since then, we have always had a minimum of three cats around. Over the years we have become experienced cat parents, and we have had to deal with significant cat health issues as our group has aged. In 2022, we lost two of our seniors. One to diabetes and one to old age (19). We decided that we wanted to rescue a younger cat to add some life back in the house. As long-time supporters of Cat Guardians, we knew just where to start! We attended the open house on September 17th and enjoyed meeting the residents, particularly Kelsey and Karisma. Two petite, black cats, each with a tiny white accent on their chests, who were not at all related.

As soon as I reached out to Karisma (just under a year old), she wanted to play but also licked my hand and grabbed it as if to encourage me to pet her. After a few pets, she ran off to play with the other cats but continued to circle back for some attention. Then, I saw Kelsey who was a one-eyed cat about three years old. We found out that she had lost her eye due to an infection she had contracted while living in a crowded cat situation. She was friendly and actually put her nose to my nose when I first reached out to introduce myself! She was very sweet but would not let me pick her up, she was not mean in any way but had moves as slippery as a river otter. She had moves! We found out that she had been adopted and then returned because she was too playful with the resident cat who had problems with Kelsey's energy level.

Although we had been looking for one, and we felt that Karisma was the energetic kitten we were looking for, we felt that we were well versed with cats with disabilities that most people may not want to adopt, and we decided to apply for Kelsey as well!



Alumni Corner Continued



Our application was approved and we adopted them both on October 4th, 2022.

Their freedom ride was full of anxiety for all of us. Lots of crying, vomiting, peeing and pooping in the carrier. Their first night was very traumatic for them in a new home. Karisma found a good hiding place, but would come out for pets with encouragement. Kelsey found a comfortable spot and using her special moves, was able to keep just out of arms reach. This went on for a day and a half until Stewie, our all black male cat, pushed through the door as I was taking the new girls their dinner. He went up and sniffed them both, they returned the favor and then he jumped up on the cat tree and took a nap. I decided to leave the door open and supervise for a bit, when our tuxedo cat Mittsy came in, looked at both of them, looked at me and gave me a "You have got to be kidding" look and walked out. That was that. All four have been living in peace ever since then. Grooming each other, sharing toys and having great zoomie battles.

Kelsey, renamed Jynx is fearless. She is an adventurer and does not let one eye slow her down. She has gone where no cat has gone before in our house. She climbs on top of the kitchen cabinets, investigates the depths of the basement, figured out how to open cabinet doors to steal food (she does share with her siblings) and if she had a tattoo, it would be "No Regrets". She loves to play fetch with her plastic spring toys, sleep under the heating vent on her heated bed and she now asks for me to pick her up and cuddle with her. Make no mistake, she is not a lap cat but she does demand attention.

Karisma, renamed Lulabelle, is a typical teenager. She wants to cuddle for a minute or two, then runs off to go chase her siblings. She is adept at stealing silicone cat food can covers and hiding them in her cat club house. She enjoys investigating whatever you are doing and is trying hard to actually climb into the fridge to help you choose dinner. All open cabinets are fair game as are the tallest bookcases. She keeps her collar bell quiet and manages to get locked into closets. She is the first one to appear when the cat toys are turned on and the last one to leave when they are turned off.

While all four cats get along so well, Jynx and Lula clearly share a special bond and spend time playing, grooming and napping together. All in all, we found what we were looking for! Thank you, Cat Guardians.



Little Miss Patsy.

Part 2

By Madeline Newport



Ever since she joined our little family, Patsy has been nothing but a delight! When I first met her at the shelter, she was scared, hiding, and barely eating, but I knew she was special. The videos on her foster's Facebook page showed her with spunk and attitude, just what I wanted in a cat! I decided to adopt her, and hoped she'd be a friend to my other cat, Klaus. On the first day of having her, she immediately opened up to me. She was purring and ready to explore whatever she could. While leaving the bedroom on the second day, Klaus ran past me and started sniffing her. Patsy was not having it and hissed at him, but in under 10 minutes, they were napping next to each other! It was the fastest introduction I've ever seen with any cat. Over the following weeks, I noticed how attached Klaus and Patsy became with each other, especially Klaus. If Patsy got locked in the bedroom without him, he would be clawing or howling at the door until I'd open it. Their love for each other is identical to sibling love; Patsy will smack Klaus until he chases her, and Klaus gives her unsolicited baths (which she loathes).

While Klaus and I might love her the most, she gets plenty of love from my friends and family. Anytime we have visitors, Patsy is the first one to greet them. She'll stand by her toys and wait patiently for anyone to play with her, and if you don't get the hint, she'll bite your feet. Despite that, she's still the only thing anyone wants to talk about! She's the star of the show at every dinner party and family visit. I'll always love how much character she has; even though she wakes me up at 4:00am for pets, torments her brother for no reason, and decides to knock off candles from the counter, she's still my baby girl.



FIP, Hope and Happy Endings

FIP (or feline infectious peritonitis) has long been considered a fatal diagnosis for cats, but this may be changing. A growing number of animal welfare organizations are advocating for the use of an experimental treatment which has shown remarkable results in cats diagnosed with FIP. Cat Guardians has tapped into this network and successfully treated several cats with FIP in the last year. Let's hear more about one of those cats from Cat Guardians' founder, Kathy Blackwell.

CG: Kathy, tell us a little bit about Helen Keller.

KB: When we discovered an abandoned kitten who was blind, we took her to our vet, who then informed us that aside from being unable to see, she also had FIP. My heart sunk because I knew that FIP had always been a death sentence. In my 4 decades of animal welfare work, I only know of a couple of cats who did pulled through the diagnosis.

CG: What terrible news! What happened next?

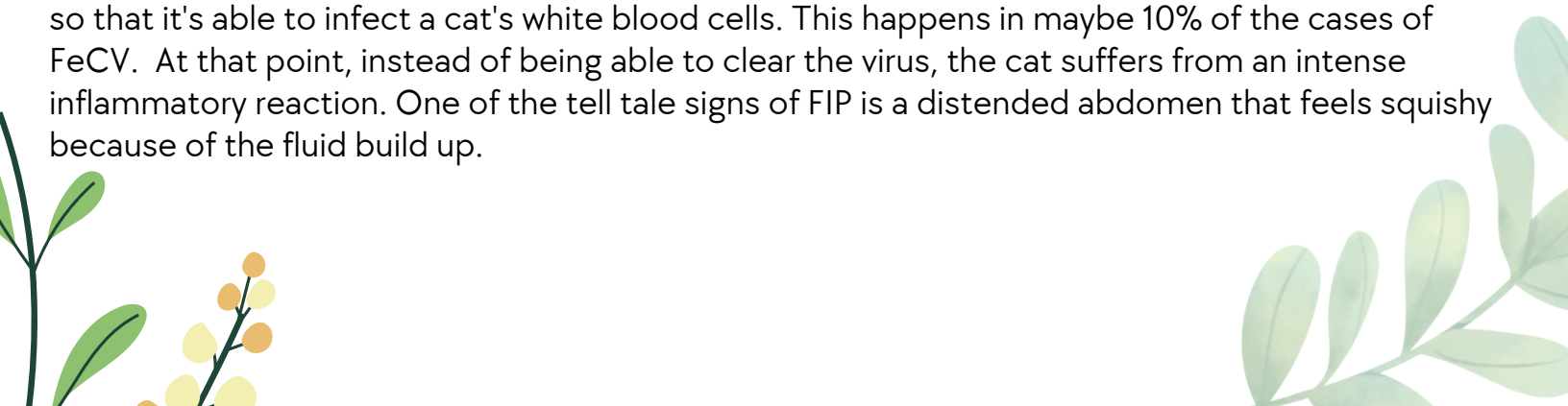
KB: To my surprise, the vet told me that there was a new protocol that had shown promise in treating FIP. I jumped at the opportunity! Since this therapy is not yet approved to be prescribed by veterinarians, I had to contact a group who worked specifically with FIP cats. They put me in touch with a volunteer who had successfully gotten a kitten through FIP. She walked me through a couple of different treatment protocols and helped me decide which might be best for Helen Keller. She also helped me locate the key medication, which turned out to be very expensive.

CG: Was it a difficult decision to go ahead with Helen Keller's treatment?

KB: No. Since Cat Guardians was opened 32 years ago, we have always put the best interest of the cat first. This sweet little kitten came to us with so many cards stacked against her and this treatment was her only chance at life. There was no question in my mind that she was worth it. Thankfully we have wonderful supporters who feel the same way and make what we do possible. I can't thank them enough for allowing us to take a chance on this little girl!

CG: Can you share a little about FIP and Helen Keller's treatment?

KB: Sure. FIP develops when a fairly common virus called FeCV (feline enteric coronavirus) mutates so that it's able to infect a cat's white blood cells. This happens in maybe 10% of the cases of FeCV. At that point, instead of being able to clear the virus, the cat suffers from an intense inflammatory reaction. One of the tell tale signs of FIP is a distended abdomen that feels squishy because of the fluid build up.



KB (cont): FIP (and FeCV) are not contagious to humans, and although it's not likely other cats can catch it, out of precaution we isolated Helen Keller. She received daily treatments for 3 months. In addition to taking this key medicine daily in pill form (it can also be given in a shot, but our little girl was not going to stand for that!), she received Denamarin, a vitamin supplement (Pet Tinic), a probiotic (Fortiflora) and high quality canned and dry food. Some cats need subcutaneous fluids for hydration, but thankfully that was not necessary for Helen Keller. She had monthly checkups with the vet to monitor her progress and do blood work. Thankfully, she received a good report after completing the 3 month treatment. After another 3 month observation period, she had a final round of blood work and her vet determined she was "FIP free."

CG: *That's wonderful news! Was it smooth sailing after that?*

KB: Well, not quite. Because her vaccinations were delayed due to FIP, she ended up with calicivirus, but this spunky kitty lived up to her feisty name sake's reputation and overcame that serious illness too. She has now been spayed and her non-functioning eyes removed. She's a bundle of energy and loves human contact! It's amazing to see her play and do all the things a normal cat would do at this age, despite her blindness. Thanks to our wonderful supporters, this girl is now able to live a life that would not have been possible without this new "miracle treatment."

CG: *Wow! What's next for her?*

KB: We want to get her ready for adoption so our next step is to get her used to the "office" area of the shelter. It's a smaller space with fewer cats. There's a young cat in there who will be a wonderful playmate for her. We think that when she's adopted she will do best with the support of another cat, so this socialization step is going to be very important for her. And then we will be looking for a very special family for our very special girl!

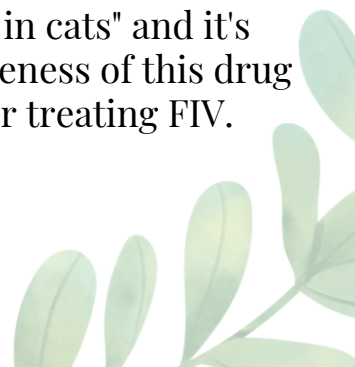
CG: *Well, I'm sure all of our Cat Guardians friends are rooting for her to have the best life possible. Have you treated any other cats with FIP?*

KB: Yes, we've successfully treated a total of 4 FIP cats. As great as that news is, there is also a sad side because we lost 3 kittens to FIP before we could get them started on any treatment. It's always heartbreaking to lose a kitten, but hopefully this new treatment will be the answer we've been seeking for many decades.

CG: *Thank you for sharing Helen Keller's story with us Kathy.*

KB: You're welcome. None of this would be possible without the support of our donors and volunteers and I am so grateful for all that they do day in and day out to make happy outcomes like this possible!

Note: Results from a small scale study by researchers at Kansas State, Wichita State and UC-Davis were published in 2016 and looked at the same drug used to treat Helen Keller. The report title was "Reversal of the progression of fatal coronavirus infection in cats" and it's available on Google Scholar. We hope that further research on the effectiveness of this drug leads to its approval for use in cats so that vets can begin to prescribe it for treating FIV.



Giving Grid Fundraiser



Kitten Fun in the Summer Sun



Last year was a busy time at Cat Guardians, with 47 cats and kittens placed in their forever homes. This year has started off equally busy. Kitten season has already arrived, and we currently have 2 litters under our care, including momma, Honey Bunny and her kittens. Caring for a mom and 5 kittens until they are ready for adoption costs about \$2,000 (including food and litter for 5 months, routine medical care, vaccinations, and spay/neuter). Plus, we have a regular flow of stray and abandoned cats who need our help to find forever homes, and a number of cats who live at the shelter permanently because they are not suited for adoption.

To help defray the cost of food and medical care for these cats, in June we are once again hosting a kitten “Giving Grid” fundraiser.

Our goal for our “Kitten Fun in the Summer Sun” fundraiser is \$5,000. With Giving Grid you pick a square, enter a donation amount and upload a picture of your favorite furry friend. Then, share our campaign with your human friends on social media. All donations are securely handled through PayPal, and you don’t need a PayPal account to donate.

To donate, go to <https://www.givinggrid.com/CatCG> or scan the QR code above with your phone’s camera to make your donation today!

Our shelter is an all-volunteer organization and is entirely funded by generous donors like you. So please, stop by our Giving Grid today to donate and see the photos uploaded by others in our Cat Guardians family. With your help, we can continue to meet the needs of vulnerable animals in our area. We deeply appreciate the continued kindness and generosity of our wonderful supporters!





*Thank You to All Our Wonderful
Volunteers and Donors*

Zehra Ahmed
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Volunteers and Donors*

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Johanna and Jake Marks

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My Three Cats and Co.
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Heather Parris
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Jeffrey Phillips
Diane Pionto
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Sharon Prosek
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Katherine Zirbel



Volunteering

By Heather Parris

I started volunteering at Cat Guardians in December of 2022 and have found it to be a very rewarding experience. It can be hard work at times, but spending time with all the kitties makes it all worthwhile. It's also amazing to see just how many are getting adopted. Cat adoptions are usually much lower than dog adoptions, so it is refreshing to see just how many we have placed in the 5 months I have been here. I was also struck by the welcoming nature of the volunteers. Some rescues can be a bit clannish and do not welcome new members or their ideas and I must say that is not the case here. Even though I am a new volunteer my thoughts and opinions are taken seriously and valued.

Liz, our volunteer coordinator, is very cognizant of burnout, and is careful that I do not overcommit myself. I have worked and volunteered at places that have taken advantage of my helpfulness, so this cautiousness is refreshing. I come in twice a week or so and enjoy filling in when other volunteers are on vacation. This way I get to work with different volunteers, so it can be someone new every week.

Unfortunately, Di has been back awhile, so I have not been able to work with Emily lately. Recently Rita has been on vacation, so I have enjoyed my time working with Beth. Half the time we get so caught up in talking that the time flies by! If it were not for MaryAnn, we would be buried in all the items donated at the shelter. I cannot believe the amount of stuff she has been able to go through! A shoutout to her for the mini facelift the hallway got. It is so much brighter in there with the freshly painted display case and the new light fixture.

I was also surprised at how much time can be spent cleaning versus socializing with the cats. The other day I went there and was in a hurry, so I dragged my son along to help. It took us about 25 minutes to scoop all the boxes, change the waters, and clean upstairs. A small time commitment goes a long way here. Of course, the best time here is spent with the kitties, but the actual time working is less than you think.

The changes I have seen here in the short time I have been here are radical. Things are always moving forward, and that is how growth occurs. And there are so many different ways to volunteer. Some people bake for our bake sale, some work cleaning shifts at the shelter, while some help with the social media posts. The fact that Cat Guardians has so many different ways to utilize their volunteers talent is valuable since it provides a great deal of flexibility. Volunteering here has been one of my most rewarding experiences.

Volunteer



We are looking for healthy, active, empty nesters, retirees and adults who can assist with the daily shelter operations such as feeding, scooping the litter boxes and general tidying activities.

The shelter is a wonderful place to volunteer and connect with other people who have a love and passion for animals. If you have extra time, and want to be involved in something special, then come meet the kitties and phenomenal volunteers at Cat Guardians. You may find your next best friend, whether it be cat or human, while doing something good and giving back. Get started today by filing out a volunteer interest form at www.catguardians.org/volunteer.

SHELTER WISH LIST

Why not pick up a few things on our wish list and bring them to the shelter. Each donated item reduces shelter expenses and helps us meet our goal of providing a safe and comfortable home for the cats.

-
- Purina Pro Plan Adult Hairball Management Turkey and Rice
 - Purina Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin and Stomach Lamb and Rice
 - Meat Only Baby Food (Turkey or Chicken)
 - Clumping Clay Based Litter- Unscented
 - Feline Pine Wood Litter
 - Gift Cards For: Pet Supplies Plus, Petco, Petsmart, Target, and Walmart
 - Feliway Multicat Calming Diffuser Refill
 - Postage Stamps
 - Paper Towels
 - Liquid Laundry Detergent





Become a Member of GG

Sign up for:

- Individual - The Cat's Meow \$20.00
- Family - Feline Friends \$35.00
- Donor - Good Samaritan \$50.00
- Subscribing - Best Buddy \$100.00
- Sustaining - Silver Purr - \$250.00
- Patron - Golden Purr \$500.00
- Lifetime - Platinum Purr \$1,000.00
- Senior/Student - Kitty Companion \$10.00
- Your Pet- Play Pal - \$10.00
- Memorial- Any Amount
- Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____



Honorings

In honor of Susan Sadkowski from Martha A. Class

In honor of Sharon and Michael Prochot from Katherine Zirbel

In honor of Tom Park from Timothy Skulavik

In honor of Suzanne Bruce from Jeffrey Phillips

In honor of Shelly Spooner Dodge from Lori Ham

In honor of Jeff Jacobson from Giger Kearney

In honor of Harper from Justin Cisko

In honor of Lonnie and Livey from Yolanda Gioia

CG MEMBERS

Lifetime- Platinum Purr

Ellen T. Fratschi

Wally Lindberg

Patron- Golden Purr

Virginia Ralph

Jeanne Whiting

Subscribing- Best Buddy

Dow- Wehrle Family

Gayle English

Rita and Gary Kroenert

Janice Maliska

Individual- Cat's Meow

Sheryl Mariner

Donor- Good Samaritan

George and Sandra Calhoun

Susan Crowell and KC Cooke

Margaret and Kenneth Dumas

Walter and Joan Kusnierz

Luann Mazza

Pamela and Daniel Mitchell

Judith and Paul Spinelli

Family- Feline Friend

Richard and Kathy Kalivoda

Senior- Kitty Companion

Diane Cipriani

Wayne and Gayle Kankovsky

Charles and Sandra Kliche

Roberta Matula

Barbara Vershure and Debra Curtice

Nancy Willford



MEMORIALS

In memory of Cinnamon and Sissy from MaryAnn Spiegel

In memory of Pumpkin from Beth and Brian Egofske

In memory of Pumpkin from Linda Parks

In memory of Pumpkin from Pat Egofske

In memory of King and Prince from Johanna and Jake Marks

In memory of Leonard from Michael and Mary Hebbard

In memory of Pooki, Kitty, Vanna, Sam and Frosty from Sharon Kouba

In memory of Cat Guardians alumna Lily, who was given a loving home by her adopter Jeff Decker

In memory of Nancy Smith from Donald Smith

In memory of Nancy Smith from West Chicago Sister Cities

In memory of Harry May and Pyewacket from Pamela Schweikle

In memory of Betty Morini from Arlene Cook

In memory of Leonard from Michael and Mary Hebbard

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Bohdan and Larissa Iwnetz

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Anna Marshall

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Joan Moran

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Kathy Jo Williams

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Areta and Peter Rago

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Christine and Scott Magnuson

In memory of Jeanette Mociuk from Andrij Neczwid and Christine Pundy

In memory of Jeannette Mociuk from Alexander Weaver

In memory of Jeannette Mociuk from Katharine Heller

In memory of Lorraine Hollis from Laird Brown

In memory of Lorraine Hollis from Judith and Gerald Werner

In memory of Lorraine Hollis from Mark and Margaret Gebbia

In memory of Andres Kennedy III from Marcia Kaiser

In memory of Dee Cabrera from William and Mabel Barnes

In memory of Millie from Barbara Vershure and Debra Curtice

In memory of John Czech from David and Carolyn Czech

Sponsor a Cat

If you are unable to adopt a cat and just want to help a needy one, you can make a difference by sponsoring one or more Cat Guardians shelter cats. A number of our residents are unlikely to be adopted due to their age or because they have medical or behavioral difficulties.

Funds are needed to provide for these cats, and you can help by sponsoring one of our cats listed under Sponsorship on our website. A \$20 contribution is for a one month sponsorship, which includes:

- Certificate of sponsorship
- Biography and picture of the cat you are sponsoring

As a sponsor, a monthly contribution of \$20 would be greatly appreciated. However, you are under no obligation to make further contributions. To become a sponsor, just fill out and mail in the form below with your donation.

Please enclose your \$20 check payment and return this form to:

Cat Guardians
932 East St. Charles Road
Lombard, IL 60148

I would like to sponsor:

Name of cat (s) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____





Cat Guardians, Inc

Cat Guardians
Lombard, IL

A no-kill shelter
for cats

932 East Charles Road
Lombard, IL 60148
www.catguardians.org

Calendar Of Events

June 2023

' Kitten Fun In The
Summer Fun' giving
grid

August 2023

August 26th
32nd Anniversary Party
11:00AM-3:00PM

September 2023

September 16th & 17th
Bake Sale & Open House
11:00AM-3:00PM

October 2023

October 21st & 22nd
Bake Sale & Open House
11:00AM-3:00PM

December 2023

December 16th
Holiday open house & raffle
11:00AM-3:00PM

Please check our website or Facebook to stay up to
date on all events, locations, dates & times!

Cat Guardians is currently open by appointment only. If
interested in a particular cat please follow directions given
on our website for adoption.