



CAT GUARDIANS, INC

A NOT FOR PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION , 501 (C) (3) CERTIFIED

WINTER 2023 ISSUE



Cat Guardians
Lombard, IL

A no-kill shelter
for cats

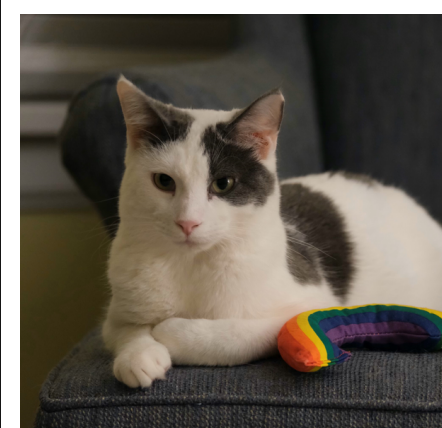
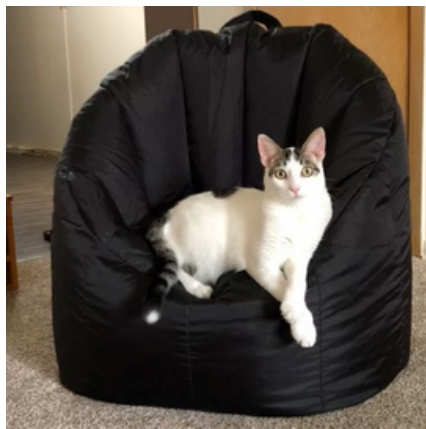
932 EAST CHARLES ROAD
LOMBARD, IL 60148
WWW.CATGUARDIANS.ORG

KATHY, THE VOLUNTEERS AND RESIDENT CATS ARE WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON, MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR. MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING ALL OF YOU HAPPINESS, WELLNESS AND GOOD FRIENDS & FAMILY. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CAT SHELTER. WE CELEBRATED OUR 33RD ANNIVERSARY, AND WE ARE FOREVER THANKFUL TO YOU.
PEACE TO ALL.



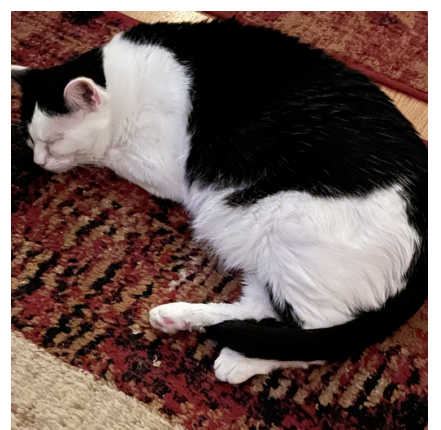
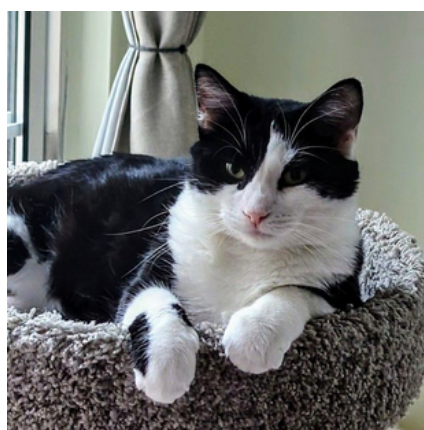
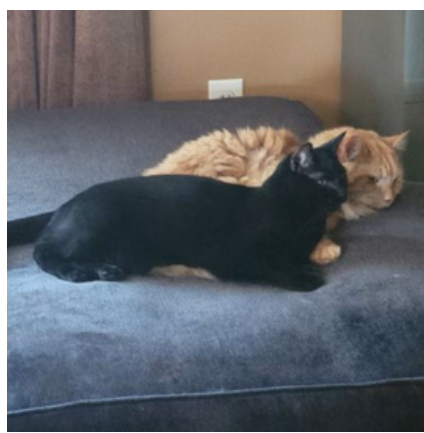


CG Alumni Pictures



Cat Guardians had so many amazing adoptions in 2023 with **34** kitties going to loving homes since May!!!! We are so proud of the work we do at the shelter for the cats!

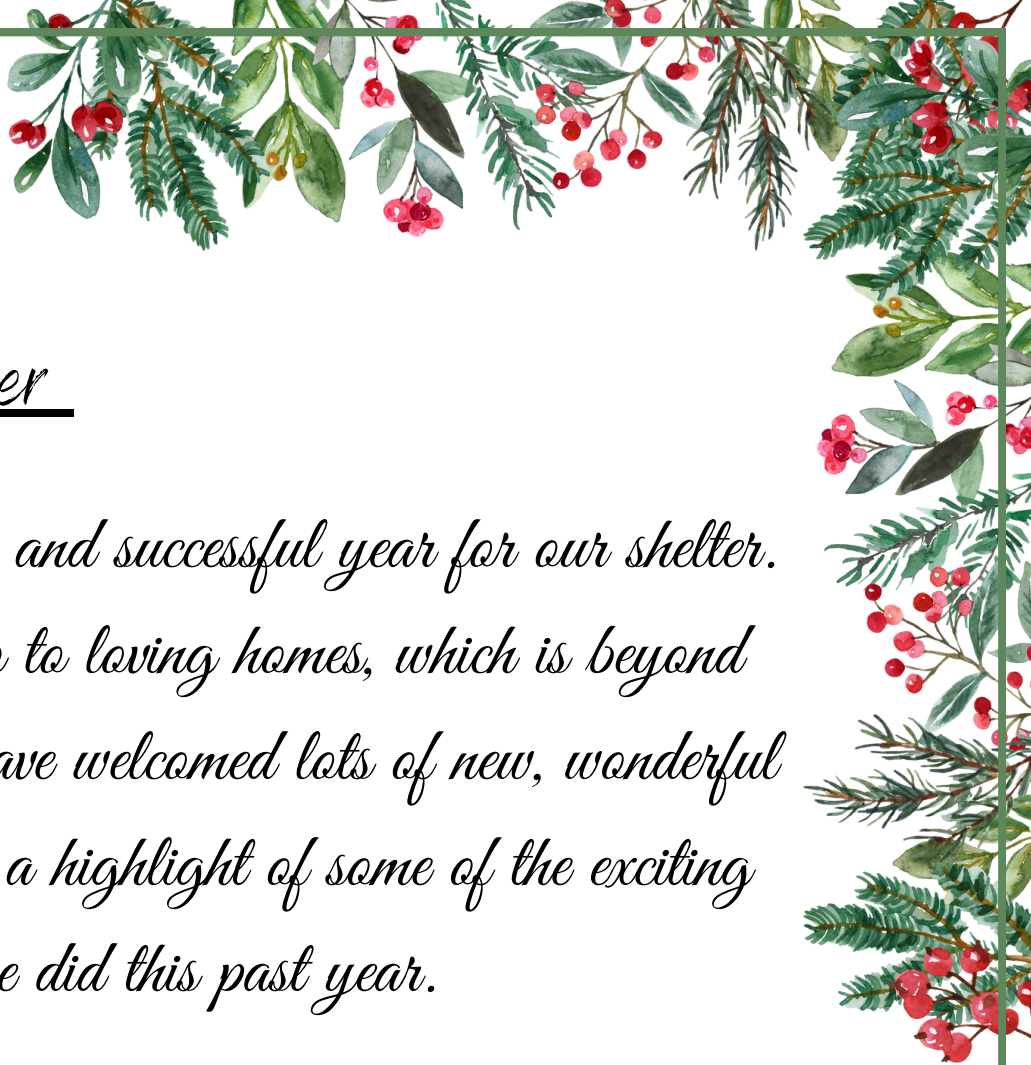
CG Alumni Pictures



We had so many wonderful pictures to share that we needed two pages to showcase all our CG Alumni living their best lives!



Cat Guardians' 2023



A Year to Remember

2023 was an exciting and successful year for our shelter.

We had 61 cats go to loving homes, which is beyond amazing! Plus, we have welcomed lots of new, wonderful volunteers! Here is a highlight of some of the exciting things we did this past year.

- We hosted our first Valentine's Open House and Raffle.
- We received a grant from the Ronald R. Bork Fund of DuPage Foundation.
- Our fabulous CG volunteers were featured in a The Faces of Lombard newspaper article and on the cover of the paper.
- We had **27 cat adoptions** during the first five months of the year.
- We hosted the Hinsdale Community House summer camp for weeklong excitement.
- CG celebrated its 33rd anniversary with a fun, luau themed party.
- CG's anniversary celebration made the cover of The Lombardian.
- The October bake sale, which we dedicated to Barb Sounhein, was the **most successful bake sale** on record for CG.



A Brief History of Cat Guardians

By Kathy Blackwell

Needless to say, I've been an animal lover my whole life, so it's no surprise that I ended up starting my own cat shelter! I'd always volunteered for humane societies, and worked at various animal hospitals, but the turning point came when I survived a life-threatening health emergency. That was the motivation that propelled me to start Cat Guardians back in 1990 and there has never been a dull moment since! I focused on felines simply because after my brain surgery, I no longer had the physical strength to work with animals larger than cats.

It has been a whirlwind since the day we opened our doors to the public because there has never been a shortage of cats that need our help! While it is very rewarding to work in animal rescue, it can also be heartbreaking, but that is itself a fact of life that can't be avoided. At Cat Guardians, we pride ourselves on making sure that every cat we care for receives not only sustenance and medical care, but is also showered with love!

Our goal is to help those who need us most. Take Helen Keller for example. She came to us with multiple health issues in addition to being blind. We successfully treated her and she was recently adopted to a loving home! Hers is just one example of the lives that have been transformed over the last 30 years, so we know that our work is both necessary and worth our time and effort.

We have always been run by volunteers with no paid staff. We are supported by donations from kind people and by holding regular fundraisers such as bake sales, raffles, etc. to pay our bills to keep our shelter running! Any cat in our care is allowed to live at our shelter for as long as need be. That could mean simply



until it is adopted, or in the case of a few unadoptable cats, for their entire life. The only time euthanasia is acceptable is when an animal is suffering from a fatal disease that is no longer medically treatable. Lastly, we want our cats returned if someone is no longer able to keep them because each and every feline is important to us (even after three decades)!

Over the years, we have been featured in many newspaper articles, appeared on Fox- TV with Bob Sirott and WGN news, had our celebrity kitty, Champagne featured on the front of Purina Pro Plan canned and dry food, and we have had a chapter in “The Stray Cat Handbook,” by Tamara Kreuz!



While being in the limelight can be fun, our most important job is to give the best care possible to our cats on a daily basis, and we couldn't do that without our wonderful volunteers! Daily chores can be monotonous, but it is definitely worthwhile because you know that you are helping animals who need you! There is no feeling like that in the world, and I have no regrets about dedicating my life to Cat Guardians! It is truly a labor of love!



Barb Sounhein at Meows and Minis Fundraising Event



Barb Sounhein, Maureen Koziol and Rindie Coker at 30th Anniversary Event



Holiday Open House and Insurance Raffle

Come visit our adorable cats, meet our wonderful volunteers and enjoy some holiday refreshments. Our open house is on Saturday, December 16th from 11 AM to 3 PM.

We hope to see you here, and we can celebrate the holiday in a truly festive style!



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!
Join us for the 2024
New Hope Art Auction



Looking for artists!
to donate original artwork
(with a kitty theme)
to benefit
CAT GUARDIANS NO KILL CAT SHELTER
All profits from
auction go to help us help homeless cats.
Artwork displayed at
Naperville Fine Art Center Gallery
INTERESTED?
ElizabethReichert@yahoo.com



ANNUAL SHELTER INSURANCE RAFFLE

\$1.00 EACH OR 12 FOR \$10.00



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TICKETS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 16, 2023

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CAT GUARDIAN, INC.
A CARING, CAGE-LESS, NOT FOR PROFIT SHELTER

CAT GUARDIANS
932 EAST ST. CHARLES
ROAD
LOMBARD, IL 60148

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DRAWING, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. THE RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 16TH AT 3:30 PM.



A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring green pine needles, holly leaves with red berries, and brown pinecones. The border is most prominent at the top and bottom, with smaller sections on the left and right sides.

VOLUNTEERING BY ASHLEY SHEEHAN

DURING 2020 THERE WERE A LOT OF CHANGES FOR EVERYONE. FOR MY HUSBAND CHRIS AND I THIS INCLUDED MOVING OUR WHOLE LIVES FROM THE WEST COAST OUT TO LOMBARD. I WAS SO EXCITED FOR THIS NEW ADVENTURE, BUT WITH WORKING FROM HOME, AND WITH NO FAMILY AND FRIENDS ANYWHERE NEARBY MY LIFE GOT VERY QUIET. IT TOOK A PLANE (OR TWO) TO SEE ANYONE I KNEW AND LOVED, AND MOVING HERE IN THE WINTER DIDN'T HELP WITH MEETING NEW PEOPLE. WE OFTEN DROVE BY THIS HOUSE - "CAT GUARDIANS", AND I WAS ALWAYS SO CURIOUS TO HOW THIS HOUSE WAS A SHELTER. SO, PARTLY TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, PARTLY OUT OF CURIOSITY, AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF MY LOVE OF ANIMALS - I REACHED OUT TO SEE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING. I'M PRETTY SURE I TRIED SIGNING UP FOR EVERYTHING - I JUST WANTED TO HELP! I STARTED OUT AS A CLEANER, AND CONTINUED TO GET MORE INVOLVED. THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE INVOLVED MOTIVATE ME TO WANT TO BE BETTER AND DO BETTER - ALWAYS FOR THE CATS. I AM NOW A CLEANER, HELP WITH BAKE SALE ORGANIZATION, FUNDRAISING EVENTS, AND SOMETIMES ADOPTIONS! WORKING ALONGSIDE THE CATS, LEARNING THEIR PERSONALITIES AND QUIRKS, HELPING THEM BE MORE SOCIAL SO THEY CAN GET THE HOMES THEY DESERVE, BRINGS A FULLNESS TO MY LIFE THAT I HAD BEEN MISSING. I'VE MET SOME TRULY SELFLESS PEOPLE, I HAVE MADE SOME WONDERFUL FRIENDS, AND NOW TO SEE SOMEONE I KNOW AND LOVE (WHETHER IT BE A PERSON OR A CAT!), IT IS NOT A PLANE - IT'S JUST A QUICK DRIVE DOWN THE STREET TO CAT GUARDIANS.

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 filling 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



Alumni Corner

LILIBET



Hello! I just wanted to share how Lilibet has been doing in the last few days of being in her new home.

She took a bit to warm up, and still is a little nervous about louder sounds or sudden movements, but she really is getting the hang of her new life, home and mommy. She also is learning a new name: Nyx.

We went from nervously being on the rocking chair to cuddling and now being a happy sunshine child with some new toys from her very supportive aunt (my vet-in-training sister).

She is so sweet and loving, and has really enjoyed me working largely from home the last week (including several camera cameos on video calls).

Nyx is doing so well and I am so glad to have her as part of my life. I'm so excited to see her personality shine out as she grows more comfortable and confident every day.

In Short, Kovak is Great!

Per your advice, for the first week we limited Kovak to one room. After that, we let him explore the house on his own terms. He was timid the first couple weeks, but in the past month he's really opened up! The entire house now belongs to Kovak, and he gets along famously with everyone in our family (even our 8- and 5-year-old granddaughters!). Kovak also is eating well (~3 cans of wet food every day) AND drinking plenty of water! Our youngest son plays with him every day, and he also gets plenty of exercise running from window to window to watch the wildlife.

We couldn't be happier to have Kovak in our family, and I wanted to extend our deepest gratitude to you for raising him, and for allowing us to adopt him :)

GERT



We went to Cat Guardians because we adopted our first cat from there four years ago. The process was just as easy as the first time, thanks to the caring and responsive staff. They answered all our questions, shared Gert's medical records ahead of adoption day and ensured that everything was in place for a smooth transition when we picked her up. Their attention to Gert's well-being was evident from start to finish, and we truly appreciate the peace of mind it brought us knowing that she had been well taken care of before joining our family. We've only had Gert for a week and a half but are so in love with our sweet girl already! She loves to play, snuggle, watch bird videos on the iPad and walk on our keyboard when we're working from home ♥



Sponsor a Cat



If you are unable to adopt a cat or 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



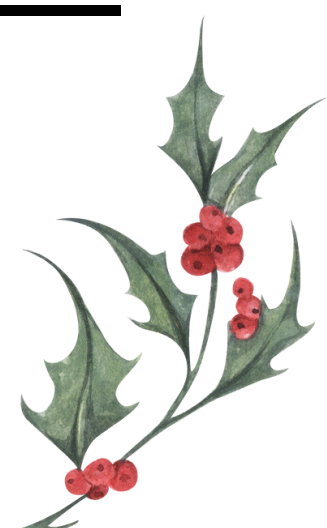
I would like to sponsor:

Name of cat (s) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____





Become a Member of CG

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 _____



Remembering Barb Sounhein



It is with great sadness that we inform our Cat Guardians family that Barbara Ann Sounhein, 74, of Addison Illinois, peacefully passed away on October 15, 2023.

Barb last worked at OfficeMax, where her strong work ethic and friendly demeanor left a lasting impression. She was a very compassionate and giving person and was always offering to help others. She enjoyed gardening, baking and taking care of any animal that crossed her path.

She found her purpose in life at Cat Guardians, where she devoted 30 years of her life to saving countless feline companions and making the world a better place for them. She was one of the original directors on the Cat Guardians board and served as treasurer until her health made further involvement impossible. Barb was instrumental in many of the shelter's regular events, including the Chocolate Sunday fundraiser held each February, pancake breakfasts, restaurant fundraisers and the monthly bake sales held throughout the summer. Over the years, she offered shelter in her own home to a number of cats who were unsuitable for adoption but also unable to adapt to the cageless environment of the shelter, giving them a place of refuge and security where they could live out their days in comfort and peace.

CG MEMBERS

Sustaining- Silver Purr

Helmut and Judy Rackl

Donor- Good Samaritan

George and Sandra Calhoun

Luann Mazza

Subscribing- Best Buddy

Vicki and Gary Hebein

Thomas Koppes

Gary and Rita Kroenert

Marylin Krolak

Family- Feline Friend

Richard and Kathy Kalivoda

Individual- Cat's Meow

Pauline Gambill

Senior- Kitty Companion

Barbara Vershure



MEMORIALS

In memory of King and Prince from Johanna and Jake Marks
In memory of Blackie and Sophia from Chuck and Sandra Kliche
In memory of Millie from Barbara Vershure
In memory of Aunt Ruth Antonelli from Susan Flemming and Ray Sargent
In memory of Carol Crispo from Bernadette Scott
In memory of my mom from Chris Zietlow Ranger
In memory of Barbara Sounhein from Carol and Ron Piotrowicz
In memory of Barb Sounhein from Helmut and Judy Rackl
In memory of Barb Sounhein from Patricia McKay
In memory of Barb Sounhein from Diane Marsh
In memory of Barb Sounhein from Kenneth and MaryAnn Urbaszewski
In memory of Barb Sounhein from John and Linda Wiesneth
In memory of Barb Sounhein from Robert and Lynette Foss
In memory of Jeannette Mociuk from Alexandra Melnyk
In memory of Jennette Mociuk from Christina Mociuk
In memory of Gary Hanney from Roxane Hanney
In memory of Gary Hanney from Lori Viereckl
In memory of Gary Hanney from Richard Hanney
In memory of Kathleen Brackett from Roberta Matula

Honorings

In honor of Ron Lonn from Deidre Alexander
In honor of Coconut and Coco from Diane Cipriani
In honor of Martha A. Class from Sue Sadkowski
In honor of Johnny from Rob Ince





*Thank You to All Our Wonderful
Volunteers and Donors*

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Mir Ali
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Marylin Krolak

Maureen and Daniel Kruszynski

Thomas and Lynne Kryger

Alex Kujawa

Nobuko Kudo



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Linda Paulsin
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Deb Pocica



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The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The DuPage Community Foundation
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Hannah Willging
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Cat Guardians
Lombard, IL

A no-kill shelter
for cats

932 EAST CHARLES RD
LOMBARD, IL 60148

WWW.CATGUARDIANS.ORG



CAT GUARDIANS, INC



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 6TH
NEW HOPE ART AUCTION
NAPERVILLE FINE ARTS CENTER

FEBRUARY 2024

FEBRUARY 10TH
VALENTINE'S OPEN HOUSE
11 AM TO 3 PM

APRIL 2024

20TH AND 21ST
BAKE SALE & OPEN HOUSE
SHELTER PARKING LOT
11:00AM-3:00PM

MAY 2024

18TH & 19TH
BAKE SALE & OPEN HOUSE
SHELTER PARKING LOT
11:00AM-3:00PM

SEPTEMBER 2024

21ST & 22ND
BAKE SALE & OPEN HOUSE
SHELTER PARKING LOT
11:00AM-3:00PM

OCTOBER 2024

19TH & 20TH
BAKE SALE & OPEN HOUSE
SHELTER PARKING LOT
11:00AM-3:00PM

CAT GUARDIANS IS CURRENTLY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. IF INTERESTED IN A PARTICULAR CAT, PLEASE FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ADOPTION.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL EVENTS, LOCATIONS, DATES & TIMES!

