

CAT GUARDIANS, INC

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

WINTER 2024 ISSUE



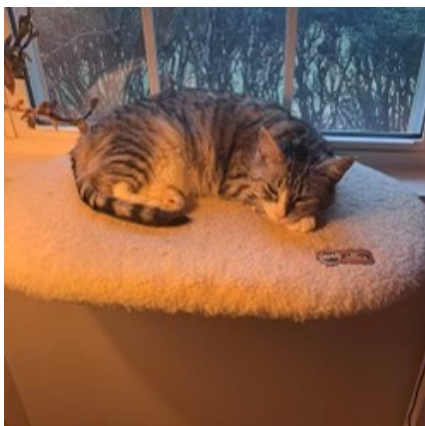
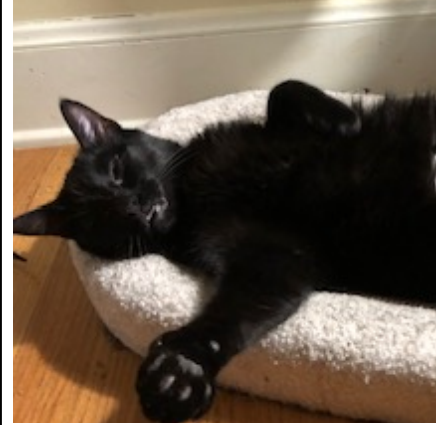
932 East Charles Road
Lombard, IL 60148

www.catguardians.org

**KATHY, THE VOLUNTEERS, AND
RESIDENT CATS WANT TO THANK
YOU FOR HELPING OUT THE
SHELTER. WE CANNOT STAY
OPEN WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT,
FRIENDSHIP, AND LOVE FOR OUR
SHELTER CATS.**

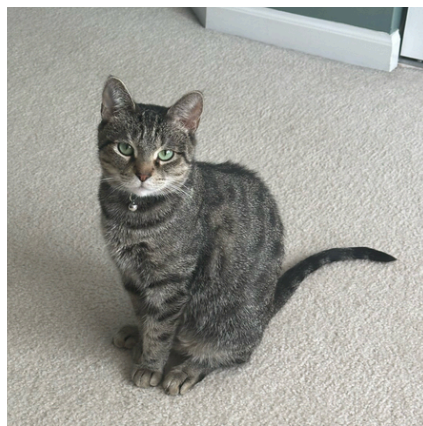
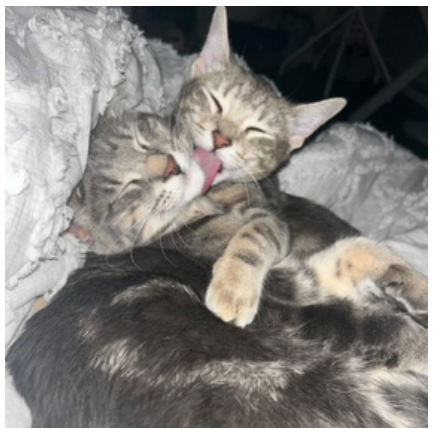
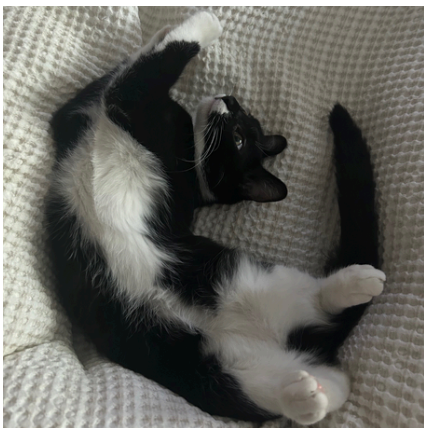
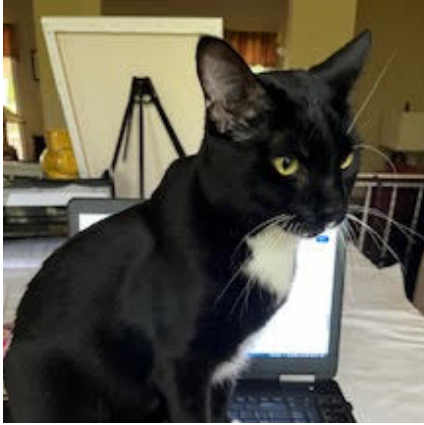


CG Alumni Pictures



Cat Guardians had so many amazing adoptions in 2024 with **106** kitties going to loving homes since January!!!! 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 thriving and loving their new families!



Cat Guardians' 2024



A Year in Review

2024 was a bustling and exciting year for our shelter! We had 106 cats go to loving homes, which is beyond fantastic! Plus, we have welcomed lots of new, wonderful volunteers! Here is a highlight of some of the exciting things we did this past year.

- CG hosted our second Valentine's Raffle and Open House in February.
- CG hosted the Hinsdale Community House summer camp for the second year with a weeklong fun and informative youth camp.
- Lombard Veterinary Hospital generously and graciously hosted two very successful adoption events for us, and we are incredibly grateful for their support!
- CG celebrated its *34th anniversary* with a wonderful party and tons of fabulous raffle prizes.
- In the month of October another absolutely amazing rescue group, Feral Fixers trapped 46 cats in a park in Woodridge. Cat Guardians stepped in to help their organization, and we took in 15 lovable cats from them. This is a great example of rescue organizations working together to support one another for the betterment of the kitties. We are beyond thankful for all the work Feral Fixers does to help feral and many times friendly kitties. Cat Guardians is also happy to be able to lend a small paw to help make a difference in the lives of these lucky cats.



Holiday Open House and Insurance Raffle



Come visit our adorable cats, meet our wonderful volunteers, try your chances on winning some fantastic gift cards and enjoy some delicious holiday refreshments. Our open house is on **Saturday, December 14h from 11 AM to 3 PM.**

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



CG's Valentine's Sweets and Sweethearts



Raffle and Open House



You are invited to Cat Guardians' Valentine's Sweets and Sweethearts raffle and open house on **Saturday, February 8th from 11 AM to 3 PM.** We will have fun raffle prizes, super sweet kitties to smooch at our kissing booth, plus delicious goodies and a hot cocoa bar. It will be a purr-tastic way to spend Valentine's weekend!



ANNUAL SHELTER INSURANCE RAFFLE

\$1.00 EACH OR 12 FOR \$10.00

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TICKETS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 14, 2024

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CAT GUARDIANS, 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 14TH AT 3:30 PM.



Coffee, Cookies and Cuddles



Come join us on **Saturday, January 18th from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM** for a behind the scenes look at volunteering opportunities at Cat Guardians. We will have coffee, delicious, homemade cookies and lots of adorable kitties to cuddle while we discuss the joys of volunteering at the shelter. Plus, you can meet other CG volunteers, and we will answer any questions you may have regarding volunteering.



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.



Volunteering at CG

David Powell

I'd like to tell you about my experiences volunteering at Cat Guardians, but first a bit of background about me and cats. Growing up, we always had barn cats. I would play with them a lot but we never had an indoor cat. In college, my girlfriend (now wife) adopted one of the barn cats, a little tortie that we named Bubbles. She was a great cat. She turned us into cat people for life. We had her for almost 15 years until she got really sick, and we had to say goodbye to her last December. After a couple months without a cat in the house, we decided to see some kitties at Cat Guardians since it is so close to home. We ended up getting two very friendly little ladies, a young mama tortie, Skittles (aka Jingle), and a tabby kitten, Biscotti (aka Edward F).



Throughout the adoption process, I was inspired by the good work being done by the shelter: saving the cats from a life on the street and getting them into loving homes. I thought to myself, "I could help out here."

In May, I emailed the shelter. I gave my availability and got myself on the schedule. I started as a cleaner: taking care of the cages, scooping the litter boxes, and giving them new food and fresh water. I loved getting to know all the cats at the shelter and was surprised at how many new little faces there were each week. I love to come in and take a quick walk around the shelter before I start. I check out the new cats, read their intake sheets and learn their names. I also check in on social media so sometimes I know ahead of time that there's someone new to meet! After a couple months, I got the opportunity to learn how to give some medications to older cats that need help as well as some new cats that have come in with some injuries. This has been awesome, I'm even able to get a couple pets in with our old guy Elvis! Since most of the cats have free rein, you really get to know their personality and a bit about how they like to be played with. A rewarding part is seeing how some of the new arrivals can go from scared and quite spicy to becoming comfortable and accepting of pets as the weeks go by. The very best part is seeing a name go up on the board with "adopted" next to it! It's sad to see a friend go, but you know that means there's room for another cat to come into the shelter. I have to give volunteering at Cat Guardians 5 stars, highly recommended.

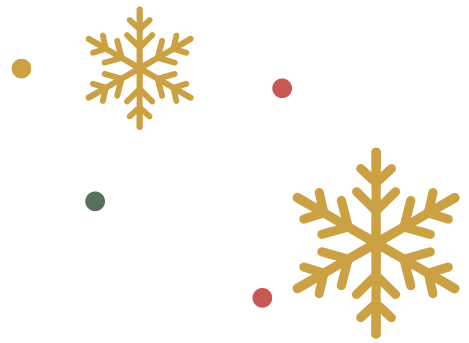




iGive.com®

You Shop. Your Charity Gets Money. For Free.

Holiday Gifts that Give Back



This holiday season, send a gift that means an automatic donation to **Cat Guardians, Inc.**! When you shop at any of over 1,725 participating online stores through iGive, a portion of each purchase comes back to us in the form of a donation check.

It's free for you, free for us, and you pay the same (or less!) than you would by going directly to the store. Shopping online means no wasted gas and no more standing in long lines at the mall. And to all you smart shoppers: don't miss iGive's treasure-trove of coupons, sales, and free shipping.

Save money, save time, and send gifts that give twice. What could be better than that?

See for yourself at:
www.iGive.com/catguardians



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
- Feliway Multicat Calming Diffuser Refill
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels
- Liquid Laundry Detergent





Nelly: A Miracle Cat



In 2022, Cat Guardians successfully treated several kittens with FIP. We thought you might enjoy hearing an update from Becky Rickert, who adopted one of those kittens.

CG: Thanks for taking time to talk to us Becky. What led you to pick Nelly?

BR: I'm so happy to share Nelly's story with you. We knew about Cat Guardians from my dad, and we liked her picture on the website. My son and I went to meet her, and while I was looking around, all of a sudden something jumped up on my back, sort of spread eagle. Lo and behold, it was Nelly. Maybe she was attracted to my ponytail, but she just clung on my back. I always tell that story because in essence, she chose us. It was love at first sight, pretty much.

CG: She knew you were her family! You took her home a couple of weeks later once she finished antibiotics for a runny nose. Tell me what happened after that.

BR: We were very happy to bring her home. We took her to the vet after about 2 weeks with another runny nose. They gave her an antibiotic which cleared that up and she seemed to be fine for a couple of weeks. Then all of the sudden, around Christmas week, she got really lethargic and didn't want to play with anything. She looked like she wanted to eat, but then would walk away. She was looking for warm spaces, hovering around a radiator heater I had. We brought her to the vet, and they found her belly was filled with fluid and diagnosed her with FIP.

CG: Wow, that must have been awful.

BR: Yes, between adoption day and that day was about 2 months. We had really grown close to her in that time and the news was hard to take. We talked to the vet, and they gave us information on FIP and various support groups. I remember crying for a couple of days and not knowing what to do. Someone suggested that we let the shelter know, so I called Kathy. A day or two later, she called me back and said if we would release Nelly to her for the next three months, she would try an experimental treatment that they were currently using on two other cats. There were no other options, so this seemed to be a godsend. We brought her back to the shelter on New Year's Eve and were just praying that this treatment was going to work. I had no doubts that Kathy was going to take very good care of Nelly and at that point, I had nothing to lose.

CG: Some of our volunteers may remember you visiting Nelly at that time. What was it like when you heard she was clear of FIP?

BR: It was great, I mean, I thanked God. I'd like to consider myself a faith-filled person, and as I reflect on that whole period, we brought her in on New Year's Eve, on the cusp of a new year, and we got her home 3 months later, just before Easter. It was like she had been transformed and had come back to life. We were beyond happy.

CG: You've had her now for almost 2 years. What is she like?

BR: She has the most beautiful long fur. Her tummy was shaved during the treatments, and that has grown in all grey. We think she has some Maine Coon in her, she's very much like a dog. She fetches toys, and she follows me around the house when I am getting the kids ready for school. She just always has to be in my business. And ... she likes to chew on my flip flops. She even brought one to me in bed one morning. Everyone who meets her just thinks she's a beautiful cat, she has so many beautiful characteristics, inside and out. I'm in love with her.



CG: You shared some video of her riding a hoverboard around the dining room with your daughter. As a mom, why do you think it's important for your kids to have a pet like Nelly in the house.

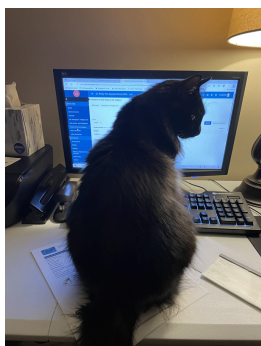
BR: That's a great question. Social pets can really show kids unconditional love, and they provide a sense of constancy for the kids. Especially Nelly. She never changes and that's important. My kids look forward to coming home and seeing Nelly after being with their dad. They know they have a bundle of fur there waiting to love them and greet them. She transitions so well with each of our individual personalities. She knows I'm a bit slower paced, but when the kids are home, her energy shifts. My daughter is very energetic, and Nelly can keep up with her like nobody's business.



CG: That's great to hear. Any final thoughts you'd like to share with our readers?

BR: Cats are loyal and most of them are friendly and great companions. Like any relationship, when you take the time and effort to get to know the cat you've welcomed into your home, they can really add to your family. I can't talk enough about Nelly. We are so grateful that she's in our family. We are really blessed with her.

FIP Treatment Update: FIP (or feline infectious peritonitis) has long been considered a fatal diagnosis for cats, but thankfully this is changing. As of June 1, 2024, the FDA has approved an oral form of the antiviral used to treat Nelly. Scan this code to watch a webinar about the most recent treatment options from The Cornell Feline Health Center.





LOMBARD VETERINARY HOSPITAL'S NEW FACILITY



Lombard Veterinary Hospital is the shelter's partner veterinary hospital, and they are amazing! The veterinary and support staff are beyond loving and caring to all our shelter kitties, plus our very own pets. They have recently moved back to their original location in a beautiful, brand new, state of the art hospital located at **244 E. St. Charles Road in Lombard**. We are very excited for them as they welcome pets and their families to their new facility!





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:

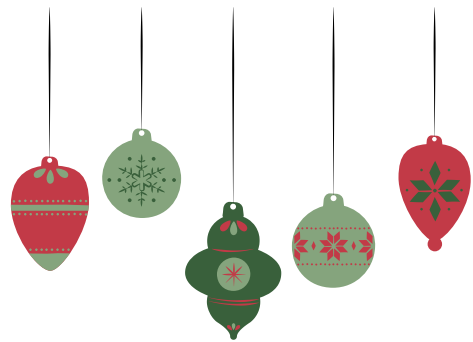
- Individual - The Cat's Meow \$20.00
- Family - Feline Friends \$35.00
- Donor - Good Samaritan \$50.00
- Subscribing - Best Buddy \$100.00
- Sustaining - Silver Purr - \$250.00
- Patron - Golden Purr \$500.00
- Lifetime - Platinum Purr \$1,000.00
- Senior/Student - Kitty Companion \$10.00
- Your Pet-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

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____





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In honor of Sharon Prochot from Mi Tech Guy, Inc.

In honor of Wendy Riley from Laurie Pellegrino

CG MEMBERS

Patron- Golden Purr

Danny and Lillian Glab

Subscribing- Best Buddy

Sandra Calhoun

Vicki and Gary Hebein

Gary and Rita Kroenert

Walter and Joan Kusnierz

Individual- Cat's Meow

Jim and Joanne Cleereman

Nancy Hacker

Donor- Good Samaritan

Donna Knuth

Luann Mazza

Family- Feline Friend

Richard and Kathy Kalivoda

Senior- Kitty Companion

Diane Cipriani

Donna Haag

Barbara Vershure



MEMORIALS

In memory of Eileen Wolff from Jill Lane

In memory of Eileen Wolff from Jennifer LoBosco

In memory of Princess, Lee Michael, Camille, Flirtatious and Kitty from Danny and Lillian Glab

In memory of Franklin from Susan Flemming and Ray Sargent

In memory of Coconut from Diane Cipriani

In memory of Millie and Dakota from Barbara Vershure

In memory of Clara Hickey from Michael Hickey

In memory of Chaser Mociuk from Christina Mociuk

In memory of Jasper from the Elmhurst Model Railroad Club

In memory of King and Prince from Johanna and Jake Marks

In memory of Jean Hoegler from Jeanette McBride

In memory of Mike Most from Nancy Diaz

In memory of Mike Most from Theresa Rubel

In memory of Mike Most from Sarah Crnich

In memory of Mike Most from Mina Cloutiar

In memory of Mike Most from Marianne Hummerich

In memory of Mike Most from Terri and Jake Jacobson

In memory of Mike Most from Don Lichenvoort

In memory of Mike Most from Gerald Gentile

In memory of Mike Most from Jerral Winkler

In memory of Mike Most from Patricia Dunne

In memory of Mike Most from Paul and Elizabeth Driscoll

In memory of Mike Most from Family Carol and Driscoll Dolburn

In memory of Mike Most from the Cat Guardians' Kitties and Volunteers

In memory of Rachel Hayes from Ethan Bloch and Nancy Messer

Gisele



Jasper



Raysins



love



Thank You to All Our Wonderful Volunteers and Donors



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Cat Guardians

Lombard, IL

A loving and humane
cat shelter

932 East Charles Road
Lombard, IL 60148
WWW.CATGUARDIANS.ORG

CAT GUARDIANS, INC

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



Calendar Of Events

CG's Holiday Party and Raffle

December 14th from 11 AM to 3 PM

Coffee, Cookies and Cuddles Volunteering Information Event

January 18 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

CG's Valentine's Open House and Raffle

February 8th from 11 AM to 3 PM

Spring Bake Sale and Open House

April 26th and 27th from 11 AM to 3 PM

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