



The Scoop



10060 Mallory E Pkwy Unit D • St. James City 33956 • (239) 283-9100 • www.helpingpawsanimalsanctuary.com

Kitties Do Us Proud at the Cat Show

By: Marnie Miszewski

We had a great time at the annual cat show! For the first time, we had two entries in the household division AND our kitties got to test their skills in the agility ring. (I think it was more of a workout for me!)

Our contestants this year were Puddles, a 6 year-old red tabby and Nelo, a 6 month-old blue tabby. (Those are the fancy descriptions for orange and gray.) Nelo was chosen specifically to run the agility course, but because of a scheduling issue was allowed to compete in the household judging.

Day one started slowly with only Nelo taking a Best in show ribbon. He also took his first try at the agility course with a time of 1 minute 45 seconds. Not too bad considering a lot of cats couldn't complete the course! Our little Nelo is a quick study. I chose him because of all the cats in the shelter, he was the only one who didn't fall asleep halfway through the play tunnels. I take full responsibility for our fat, lazy kitties.

Day two our luck changed. Maybe its because the kitties figured out what was expected of them and started to perform. Or maybe it was because the other competitors were too worn out from the first day to be much of a threat.

Keep in mind, that the household division is a completely subjective category. The judges pick winners based on the health and condition of the cat, their personality and most importantly their personal preference.

It was all over for the judge when Puddles rolled on his back in the cage and demanded a belly rub. One Best in Show ribbon in the bag. The next judge flat out admitted she had a thing for "blue" cats and just like that another Best in Show ribbon for Nelo with a second place ribbon for Puddles.

During the break, Nelo had energy to burn so he took another run at the agility course. No problem this time. He had a final time of 45 seconds. You can definitely teach a young cat new tricks!

The final round of judging was most fun for me. The judge gave no indication who her favorite was. She took her time with each of the cats. Nelo showed off his playful side and Puddles turned on his purr and enjoyed a back massage. When it was time to give out the ribbons, all but the top three cats received theirs and the remaining three owners were called to the front of the room. Puddles and I were in the top three so I was really excited.

She had us turn our backs to the crowd and proceeded to place ribbons on our collars. I was first, so I assumed we were third place, and I was honored to be in the top three. When she told us to turn I was stunned to find a Best in Show ribbon and a clapping crowd! My cuddly, lazy orange tabby may have started out slowly, but he definitely showed his stuff when it mattered!

Both boys are champions and did me proud. So if you are looking for a prize winning champion cat, I happen to have two available for adoption!



Nelo in the agility ring



Puddles after his victories



Conflicted Holiday

By: Who else?

Stress is common during the Holidays, but mine is quadrupled! I had a great Thanksgiving this year. No stress there. It's all about eating and I am good at it. Someone made a comment that I myself resembled a Butterball; you don't want to know what happened to him!

It's the Santa thing that has me running to the litter box. (When I get too stressed I develop urinary tract infections.) You're supposed to be good to be rewarded and I have to admit I was "Ivan the Terrible" this month. Can I help it I like to play tricks? My favorite is hiding and jumping out at an approaching cat, that one never gets old. Sometimes I pretend I'm sleeping and as a volunteer walks by, I reach out and touch them...with claws out. Gets them every time! Most of my tricks are reserved for the other cats; volunteers don't have much of a sense of humor about these things.

Well I tossed the matter around during nap time one day and realized no one can look into a darling kitty face like mine and not melt! I'm sure I will get stuff no matter what I do! That sure takes the stress out of the holidays. Of course catnip helps.

So jingle those bells! Deck a tree (for your cat to climb... What would you do if you were a cat? It's a tree with shiny stuff!); or spin that Dreidel (cats love spinning toys) and break out the Cat treats, its time to overindulge!

Speaking of Traditions, Marnie said her family used to celebrate St. Nicholas on December 5th. She used to hang her stocking and get all kinds of treats the next day. Well I tried it and it didn't work for me. I found an old sock cat toy, hid in it and waited. All those happened was I fell asleep and now I feel like I am developing a case of athletes paw. Typical.

Remember to shop early to get the best Pet Store Deals!

Ivan (the Innocent until proven guilty cat)

Rummage Sale

We finally have a date! The sale will be Saturday, December 13, from 8am-12pm. It will again be at Mike Greenwells Family Fun Park 35 NE Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral.

Now here is the **Really Big News**, Modern Woodmen of America will be matching the proceeds up to **\$2,500!**

If you have items you would like to contribute for the sale, you can bring them by the shelter or drop them off at Greenwells at 7am, the morning of the sale.

If you don't have items but would like to contribute toward the matching funds, donations made up to the completion of the sale will count towards our total.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the sale. If you have a large vehicle or trailer to help transport the items to Greenwells, you are especially needed! Please send me an email ASAP and let me know if you are able to help!

A special thanks to the Benjamins for coordinating the event and storing the items. We couldn't have done this without them!





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The 12 Cats of Christmas!

By Marnie Miszewski

Last year I got a lot of positive feedback from my 12 cats of Christmas column, so I thought I'd do it again! These are a few of our unique residents that don't always get the attention they deserve.

Not to say that all our kitties aren't important, but this article is meant to feature 12 of our kitties who inspire me and contribute daily to make this shelter what it is - a fun and wonderful home for kitties! They are in no particular order.

Starting off with number 12 is Gizmo. He is definitely our largest kitty, possibly the largest we've ever had! He was one of the 16 cats we rescued from an abandoned house 2 years ago. Gizmo is a hero in my book because he donated blood to save Lucky's life! (# 11)

At number 11 we have Lucky. She is a declawed, somewhat cranky, 11 year-old who has been with us for 3 years. This summer we noticed she wasn't herself and as it turned out she needed a blood transfusion. Gizmo donated his blood and now she is doing great.

Number 10 is a chubby-cheeked FIV kitty named Wesley. He was abandoned at a garbage dump near a vet's office. People were not kind to him (they broke his tail and kicked him in the ribs) so because of his FIV status the vet was going to put him down. We agreed to take him, and now he is learning how to be an indoor kitty. Incidentally, after everything he has been through he still trusts and loves people.

Foxy is our number 9 cat. He is on here because he deserves to be recognized for his change in temperament. When we got him he was feral. In the year and a half he has been with us, he has transformed into a friendly, lovable kitty who likes to follow us around.

Coming in at number 8 we have Q-Tip. She was trapped on the Island and her fur was so matted, she couldn't turn her head. The vet shaved her fur off leaving just a bit on her head, tail and paws. That's how she got her name. I had no idea when I named her, she would turn out to look like this. Now we just call her QT (cutie) for short.

Number 7 is Harlee. She deserves to be recognized, because at almost 17 years-old, she is currently our oldest cat.

Ziggy is number 6. He is just plain adorable. A fluffy male with FIV, he is a permanent fixture in the office. He loves to play with the ball toys and never

minds playing with the other kitties if they join in.

I have a special relationship with number 5, so I put him on the list again. Spooky likes to take me for a walk everyday to the mailbox and around the building (he doesn't even need a leash). He reminds me to take a few minutes everyday and enjoy nature!

Ni is number 4. He suffers from stomatitis. (his immune system attacks his teeth) He needed to have all his teeth pulled, so he has a hard time keeping his tongue in his mouth. He has wonderful "parents" who visit him 3 times a week and help feed and care for the other kitties too!

Number 3 is Stalker. We found him outside the shelter and later learned he was deaf and has asthma. It's a wonder he survived out there.

Our number 2 cat Xena is our miracle kitty. She came to us with meningitis. It hurt her to be touched and she spent a lot of time hiding. We almost lost her, but with steroids, her body seems to have fought it off. Now she plays and enjoys being cuddled. I put a before/after picture for you to see

Number 1, Vader, is a FELV kitty who touched my heart. He formed a special bond with Leo a kitten who came to us in January. From day one he loved, played with and protected little Leo. He never let him out of his sight often climbing on my lap with Leo when I held him. Leo became fatally ill with anemia in early November, succumbing finally on Thanksgiving Day. Throughout his illness Vader was by his side

often holding him and keeping him warm. He misses his little friend, but like me is glad to have had him even for a short time.



Vader cuddling Leo

Help Us Win!

Throughout the rest of December, the charity that receives the most new "Favorites" on eBay will win a \$25,000 grant! Please take a few minutes and add us as your Favorite now!

Please click the link below or follow these steps:

1. Go to www.ebay.com/mfc
 2. Type Helping Paws Animal Sanctuary into the Find a Charity box
 3. Click on "Add to my charities"
 4. The icon will now change to "My favorite charity"
- Plus, you could win too! EBAY is giving away a \$2,500 eBay gift card, along with other gift card prizes, to randomly drawn supporters who favorite a charity! It's a win-win.

Why You should Make Us Your Favorite on eBay:

In addition to the \$2,500 gift card you could win, did you know by selecting us as you Favorite charity on eBay you can:

- Improve your selling conversion 50%
- Donate to the charity of your choice at checkout
- See relevant items in search results
- Make a difference for a cause you care about

That's it! Thanks for your support and giving us a chance to win this grant!

HELP US WIN \$25,000
+ YOU COULD WIN \$2,500

Make us your Favorite charity
on eBay this December and
help us win \$25,000!



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