

# Newsletter

# Fall 2010

## Zani's Furry Friends

**ZANI'S FURRY FRIENDS** is a non-profit organization committed to rescuing companion animals from New York City shelters where they are at risk for euthanasia due to overcrowding.

We rescue puppies and kittens as well as adult pets who deserve a chance at a loving home. Our dogs and cats are all up to date with vaccines, spayed and neutered. Dogs are micro-chipped and heartworm negative, cats

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## Choosing Your New Best Friend:

### Tips on Adopting a Shelter or Rescue Pet

**Congratulations!** Deciding to rescue a dog or cat from a shelter can be a wonderfully selfless and rewarding experience. However, given the staggering number of pets that are handed over to shelters each year due to lifestyle and personality differences, it is a decision that should be made carefully and thoughtfully.

Visiting a shelter or adoption event can be an emotional experience that leads to decisions made with the heart instead of the head. If you do some basic research beforehand, you save yourself the trouble of bringing home an animal whose personality doesn't mesh with yours.

### Understand your own lifestyle

Are you a tri-athlete who can run a marathon in your sleep? Or does reaching for the remote constitute your daily cardio routine? Knowing your own activity level and lifestyle can go a long way towards finding your perfect furry companion. If you lead an active lifestyle, a pet with more energy and drive would be a great sidekick for hiking, jogging, or swimming. If you tend to be a homebody, a mellow, couch potato pooch is probably your best bet. Energetic pets can seem hyper and uncontrollable when they don't receive adequate exercise and mellow ones can seem



**ADOPTABLE!**

Katey

Small, Young Female

Orange and White Short Hair

lazy or uninterested in more active households. Understanding yourself and what you're looking for in your new best friend (jogging companion vs. movie date) can make it much easier to find a compatible match at the shelter or rescue organization. The same goes for your living conditions. Take stock of the space available to your new pet and keep this in mind when determining an animal's size and energy level.

## Adoptable



VIE  
Senior female  
dog  
Cavalier King  
Charles  
spaniel/  
poodle mix



PATRICIO  
young male cat  
medium hair



Nugget Bunny  
young male  
medium haired  
rabbit

## Know your Shelter/Rescue Organization

The good news is there is a multitude of rescue organizations out there hoping to find new homes for deserving pets; the bad news is that they are not all created equal. By doing a little research, you can find a responsible organization that will help match you and your furry friend. Ask some basic questions. Is the shelter a no-kill shelter? Do they require references for their prospective adoptive owners? Do the animals receive some basic medical care while in the shelter? If, like Zani's Furry Friends, they answer "yes" it's a sign that the organization really cares about its animals and wants to make sure they are healthy and going to happy homes. Unexpected health problems and resulting costs are another reason many pets are turned over to shelters.

A responsible organization will also tell you if the pet has suffered from some sort of trauma or abuse. An abused animal will often not be affectionate or playful and act shy and distrustful in the company of humans. Knowing this ahead of time helps adoptive owners understand the reactions of their new pet and approach him or her in a way that will let the animal open up. A lot of patience and love is required to making this relationship work and letting the adoptive owner know what he or she is getting into is a good foundation for building the human/pet relationship.

## And finally...

Consider adopting an older pet! Older animals generally already have a degree of training and obedience (no unpleasant surprises when you get home from work). There's also no guessing-game with older pets as with younger puppies or kittens. They're not going to get any bigger and their personalities are already established. It takes an extra-special person to decide to share their lives with an older pet and that compassion is well rewarded by the love and affection that animal will share with you.

Responsible organizations determine pre-existing conditions ahead of time so that owners know what's in store for them, thus reducing the amount of returned animals whose new owners couldn't afford high vet bills.

Zani's and other conscientious adoption and rescue organizations also take the time to learn the personalities of each individual pet. By doing so, they are better equipped to place pets with like-minded prospective adopters again reducing the number of returned animals who are not compatible with their owners' lifestyles. The more involved an organization is in the lives of its animals, the better suited they are to determining which animals will make a good fit with prospective adopters.



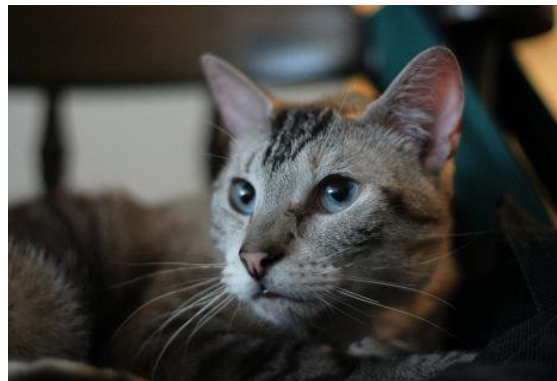
**ADOPTABLE!**  
Sherry  
Baby Female  
Domestic Short Hair

## Happy Tails: Cappuccino the Wildcat

"Be careful what you ask for"-they say. Well, we always kinda wanted to have a little wildcat. Then we saw Cappuccino's picture on Zani's Furry Friends and he looked like a small Snow Leopard. He hadn't found a home in a year- probably because the description said he "love bites-hard". Well we'd had a "biter " before and stopped it in about a week with the help of a spray bottle. He was so big and beautiful we thought we'd give him a try. So strong willed, independent Lynx Point Siamese Cappuccino came home with an independent, but mushy and affectionate black and white Tuxedo named Marty.

Whenever Cappy bit me, I'd yell OW! and I was on the verge of giving up so when he did it again, I just looked at him sadly and walked away. He watched very intently. He hasn't bitten since. I also learned to respect Cappy's boundaries and only touched him lightly when he was engrossed in eating or stroked behind his ears when he was sleepy.

Now he stretches out and loves the rubdown that you can't resist giving him. He's always in the company of one of us at any time of day and sleeps with us at night. He even lets us clip his nails!



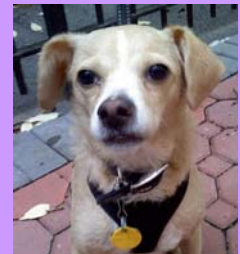
Cappuccino the Love-Biter

Well, if Marty moved- which he did all the time, Cappy was on the Well, if Marty moved, which, he did all the time, then Cappy was on the attack. Marty was scared and so were we! Cappy would drag his teeth across your hand or arm, if you got too close too fast or tried to move him. The sprayer technique seemed to make it worse-he seemed very defensive and he wouldn't take NO for an answer. My husband and I were getting "tooth scratched" nearly every day and we were afraid Marty might get hurt. I stopped reacting to Cappy- just picked up Marty and put him in "protective custody" in the bedroom with a screen door.

We are all so glad to have each others' company especially after what we've all worked through and learned from each other. These guys have improved the quality of our lives and we know we've done the same for them- once we figured out how to do it!



Sha Sha  
Large Adult  
Female  
German  
Shepherd/  
Doberman mix



Chi-Chi  
Small Adult  
Female  
Chihuahua



Rambos  
Small, adult  
female  
Long Haired



#### Flexy Fish

Young,  
Medium,  
Female  
Siamese/  
Snowshoe Mix



#### Jake

Large Adult  
Male  
Norwegian  
Forest Mix



#### Maizy Bunny

Medium, Young,  
Female  
Harlequin Mix

## Why Does My Cat Do That?

I have to admit, I am only a recent convert to cat lover. Growing up we were strictly a dog family. Moving into an apartment after college and living a more independent lifestyle, while still missing the company of a loving furry companion, led me to finally take the plunge and adopt Whisky, a three month old tortie. We soon came to understand each other much more than I could ever hope.

Still, there were (and still are) plenty of moments when I ask myself, "WHAT are you doing?" Which has led me to investigate some of the more mysterious ways of the cat.



Whisky

### Kneading

Even though I was fully aware that cats did this, I was still kind of surprised to see my cat doing this one morning to the corner of my duvet, purring with eyes shut in complete contentment. Ultimately, this action relates back to kitten behavior. In order to encourage milk to flow, kittens knead their mothers while nursing. It is a

behavior that is never lost and continues regardless of the age of the cat. In later years, it's a comforting action (kind of like thumb-sucking for some humans) and generally is an expression of love and extreme happiness (hence the purring).

### Love Bites

I have to admit, I had a hard time with this behavior when Whisky starting demonstrating it. Coming from a dog background, it's a little disconcerting to be in the middle of a snuggling session with your cat when they whip around and sink their teeth into you. Whisky is always careful not to bite too hard, but nevertheless it led me on a quest to determine why she was doing this at a moment when she seemed perfectly

happy. Despite the appearance of aggression, cats generally bite during moments of happiness as a way of showing affection, sort of like a feline kiss. The amount of pressure a cat applies when they do this is determined by their upbringing. A kitten that is socialized with other kittens during a specific period of his or her development learns "inhibited bites" by playing with other kittens that react to being

## Cat Chattering

After spotting a fly that was buzzing around out of reach, I noticed Whisky making a weird and funny-sounding clicking noise while looking like an animal possessed- pupils dilated, fixated on that tasty bug. After a little searching, I determined that this behavior is termed chattering, and is something cats do specifically when they see something desirable that is out of reach (a squirrel outside the window or a bird on television for example). Some experts believe this habit is instinctual and imitates the cat's killing bite that they use in the wild to kill small prey. In the

wild, kittens learn this bite at a young age, but domesticated cats (especially indoor ones) don't necessarily get to practice it in real life. When they see an animal or bug just out of reach, they imitate the bite because they want the prey so badly it becomes an automatic reaction. They actually think they're biting it! Other experts think it is simply an expression of frustration or excitement, bolstered by a twitching tail (also a sign of excitement and frustration).

## The Cat Crazies

This one took me completely off guard. Usually after her morning meal, without fail, Whisky goes completely mental. Bouncing off the walls crazy. Running up and down the apartment, pupils dilated, ears back, chirping and chattering, doing back flips off the couch. I was relieved to hear that this is normal cat behavior and that my cuddly little furball is not a complete maniac. This surge of energy usually takes hold in the evening hours due to cats' normal nocturnal leanings. One theory as to why they have these crazy moments is that they are simply practicing hunting techniques that they would normally use in the wild, especially because the

majority of a cat's prey is nocturnal as well. Another theory is that house cats simply don't get enough exercise during they day since they don't have to hunt for their meal. All their pent up energy finally expresses itself in these frenzied moments. Other specialists believe it revolves around the schedule of the cat's owner. When a cat is left at home alone during the day, it becomes bored. When his or her owner comes home from work in the evening, the cat wants to play and therefore becomes overly active. Regardless of motive, I was more than happy to discover that my cat wasn't going completely insane.



Cindy  
Large,  
Adult,  
Female  
Golden  
Retriever/  
Chow Mix



Cash  
Medium, Baby  
Male  
Pit BULL



Patrola  
Large,  
young,  
Female  
Labrador Mix

Zani's Furry Friends

## PITTIES With KITTIES!!



Adoptees Skyler and Willie show that love knows no bounds (or Breeds)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP!

ADOPT!

FOSTER!

VOLUNTEER!

DONATE!

WISHLIST!

<http://zanisfurryfriends.org>

## Support Zani's Furry Friends

Zani's will hold a benefit concert and raffle the night of November 27 in order to raise money for our furry companions!

Come celebrate with an evening of song at the Laurie Beechman Theater. Call (212) 695-6909 for reservations. Raffle prizes include a personal painting of your pet by local artist Sandy Jordan.

== BROADWAY ==  
Concerts Direct  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

A Benefit Concert for Zani's Furry Friends

*Love*  
**MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND**  
*An Evening of Song to Help Our Furry Friends*

**November 27, 2010**  
Saturday • 7pm

RESERVATIONS: 212.695.6909

THE Laurie BEECHMAN THEATRE at the West Bank Café 407 W 42nd Street (between 9th & 10th Ave.)

\$25 Cover + \$15 Food and/or Drink min. Doors open 1 hour prior to show

