



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

*Our numbers tell our story*





Dear Supporters:

Another year of cat rescue and we find ourselves writing another Ten Lives Club annual report. This is our third annual report where we are pleased to share with you all we have done as a non-profit cat shelter. Mainly, we want to boast in this report our accomplishments and our amazing statistics we ended with for the year. We finished 2023 with the whopping number of 3,063 cats and kittens rescued and safe in our program. This is actually down 162 cats compared to 2022 year end intake, but nevertheless, another amazing year for our organization. With the help of our nineteen off-site adoption locations we adopted out 2,927 cats and kittens into new homes. As everyone knows, these numbers represent a cat and a story to go along with that cat. Going on twenty-four years since we started we are so proud of these actual cat numbers as it shows the essential work we do on a daily basis.

Our life-saving work has established ourselves as a trusted organization our community can rely on for cat rescue and adoptions. With the amount of cats we take in and get ready for adoption requires staffing of over thirty employees. We are fortunate we have talented staff and countless volunteers to maintain and upkeep our shelter. Whether it is cat care or veterinary staff, marketing or administrative staff, all are necessary to our success as an operation. With limits to our budget we are still short-staffed but still manage to provide the required care for the over 3,000 cats we take in on a yearly basis. With cat care as an utmost concern, last year we hired a Shelter Manager to oversee our staff and shelter. It is great seeing new protocols and procedures put in place and accountability with all to make an outstanding, effective team.

Through your support of Ten Lives so many lives have been saved and so many cats are living their best life. We are grateful you continue to stay with us and believe in all our life-saving work. If you every wish a tour of our cat shelter to see what your donations help to support please call on our hotline, 716-646-5577, extension 5, and we would be happy to give you one. In 2024 there will be lots of positive change and growth for our organization. Hold the vision... Ten Lives Club is getting better, bigger and brighter all the time!



*P.S. Once you have read this report, please consider sharing it with a friend.*

*Thank you,*

*Marie*

**Marie Edwards**  
Founder & Executive Director  
Ten Lives Club



# Highlights

*2023 was an exciting year for events and fundraising here at Ten Lives Club!*

On top of some very popular familiar events, we introduced some new fun ones such as our Comedy Night and Festival of Fangs adoption event! We always have a blast and want to thank everyone who volunteered and attended, making each one memorable and successful!

Throughout the year, we participate in smaller events that are incredibly important to the growth of Ten Lives Club. While most of these aren't big money makers, we usually find a few kitties their forever homes and spread the TLC mission throughout new communities. Places like Northtown Garden Center, Antique Lamp and Value Home Centers show their love to the rescue community by opening their doors and reaching potential supporters or adopters where you'd least expect it!



The best part of 2023 was connecting with new friends and sponsors. Buffalo Feline Hospital, ZuluTails and WNY Food 4 Paws just to name a few. Even a new satellite store at Xtra Dime Back! It has been a pleasure to work with so many people that support our cause and vice versa, expanding our Ten Lives Club family to so many different channels. Our vendor group has grown substantially, bringing unique treasures to all those who attend. In 2024, we intend to keep adding to our fundraising calendar, bringing fresh ideas and even more friends and sponsors to our circle. Don't worry, your favorites aren't going anywhere! Make sure to follow us on our social media and website to get a sneak peak at the 2024 Fundraising Calendar!

*Thank you to our media partners!*

For the past year Ten Lives Club has been blessed with amazing opportunities to feature our adoptable cats on television! Many of our cats have been adopted because of our media partners and we are so grateful!

## Most Buffalo

Thank you to WGRZ Channel 2 News for having Ten Lives Club on every first Thursday of the month on Most Buffalo! Our cats have so much fun hanging out with Kate Welshofer and Maria Genero who treat them with so much love and kindness. This has been an amazing opportunity for Ten Lives Club! After 2023, Kate is leaving her job at WGRZ and we just want to say what an amazing reporter, television host and friend she is. Western New York has been so lucky to have her and get to know her and her beloved cat Brian Williams! Thank you for helping us promote the work we do at Ten Lives Club to save cats and for believing in us. You will be truly missed and we wish you nothing but the best in your future.







### Wake Up Wags!

Thank you to WIVB Channel 4 News for having Ten Lives Club on Wake Up Wags! Ten Lives Club has been so fortunate to be featured on Wake Up Wags with the amazing staff at WIVB who can't get enough of our cats! So much, in fact, that many of our cats featured on WIVB have been adopted by Channel 4 employees! Squiggy the cat was adopted by director John Lawrence. Squiggy just celebrated his first birthday! John also adopted another cat from us, Lenny! They are both such lucky cats! Thank you WIVB for all you do for Ten Lives Club! Even the cats enjoy watching Wake Up Wags!



## Coming Soon! EVENTS

- February 24** • Birthday Open House
- March 10** • Fur Ball
- March 14** • Meat Raffle
- April 7** • Kitty Games
- April 27** • Kitten Shower
- May 3** • Beer for Cats
- June 9** • Car Show
- July 13** • Summer Raffle
- September 15** • Pasta Dinner
- October 13** • Kitty Games
- November 10** • Kitty Games
- November 14** • Meat Raffle
- November 24** • Holiday Bazaar
- December 7** • Winter Raffle



The cost of care for the cats surrendered to Ten Lives Club can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Your continued support ensures these deserving cats get the care they need for a chance at a happy, healthy life. Vet care is provided by two part-time veterinarians, two vet technicians and four vet assistants.

**1,553**

cats and kittens received spay/neuter surgery upon entry to Ten Lives Club

**83**

cats and kittens received other types of surgical procedure

**YOUR DONATION, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR HOW SMALL, MAKES A DIFFERENCE.  
PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING THE GIFT OF ANOTHER LIFE SAVED.  
IT'S THE GREATEST GIFT YOU'LL EVER GIVE.**

# TLC Hosts Thankful Fur Pets Expo



When it comes to helping animals, it's all about teamwork. That's why for the past three years Ten Lives Club has hosted the Thankful Fur Pets Expo inside the McKinley Mall to help both cats and dogs find their forever homes!

The 2023 Thankful Fur Pets Expo was held Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The adoption event was sponsored by Cellino Plumbing Heating & Cooling and Clyde's Feed & Animal Center. Fifteen local rescues were in attendance with adoptable dogs and cats hoping to find them forever homes.



"The animal rescue and shelter community has been struggling to keep up with the number of homeless and surrendered pets in need of homes. It was our hope that this event helped the animals find their perfect families," said Kimberly LaRussa, public relations manager at Ten Lives Club.



Ten Lives Club adopted out 14 cats at the Thankful Fur Pets Expo, along with several animals from other rescues finding their forever homes.

Rescues and shelters in attendance included Ten Lives Club, Awesome Paws Rescue, Buddy's Second Chance Rescue, City of Buffalo Animal Shelter, Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS), Kat Colony, Hamburg Mutts, Queen City Pitties, Nickel City Canine Rescue, The Pit Chic, Rescue Buffalo, 716 Paws and 7 Hearts Maternity Rescue, the Puppy Mill Rescue Team and the SPCA Serving Erie County!

## FELV cats



When many people hear a cat has Feline Leukemia, their instant reaction is fear, uncertainty, or that the cat is sick. When I think of our FELV+ cats, I think how amazing and wonderful these cats are and how deserving they are of a loving home. FELV, a virus that affects the immune system of cats, often leads to misconceptions. Contrary to common belief, an FELV+ cat is not always sick; in fact, they can lead remarkably happy and fulfilling lives. While their life expectancy may be shorter compared to cats without FELV, their capacity for joy and companionship is boundless. A positive cat is best living with another FELV companion, as a single cat, or even a dog since it is not contagious for our canine friends!

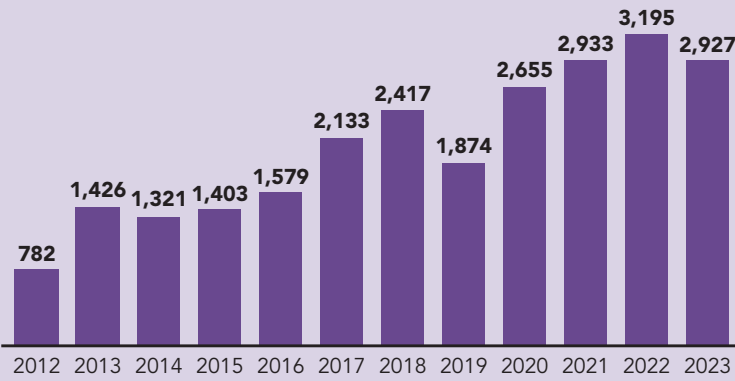
To me, the beauty of this disease is that most of the positive cats live just as any other cat, until they are close to the end of their life. It's possible that you can enjoy precious years with a remarkably healthy and vibrant feline friend. Ten Lives Club stands out as one of the few shelters nationwide that warmly welcomes these special cats and places them in loving homes.



Ham and River are just two of our buddies looking for a family! Ham is a loungeur and a chunky handsome boy with a fitting name! River is everyone's friend, loves petting, and has the cutest little nub tail you've ever seen. If you are interested in fostering or adopting one of these special kitties, we will happily give you more details and introduce you to your new best friend! Your kindness and compassion can make a world of difference in the lives of these incredible cats.



# TEN LIVES CLUB ANNUAL ADOPTIONS



Total for 12 years – **22,405** cats found their forever homes.

Since we started in 2000, TLC has saved over **45,000** cats.



In 2023,

**97%**

of Ten Lives Club's operating budget came directly from donations and special events.

TLC average donation is **\$38**

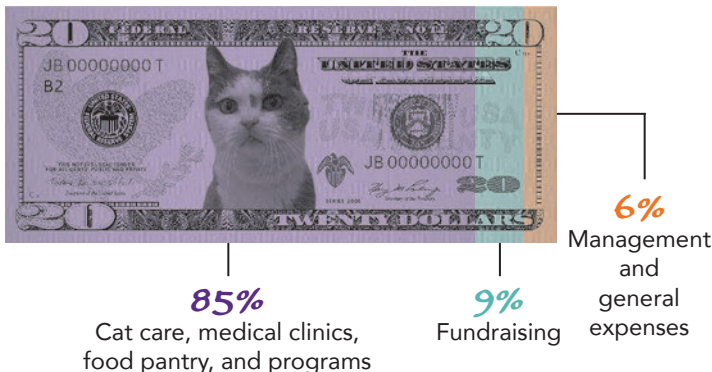
In 2023, Ten Lives Club Pet Food Pantry received

**100,352 pounds**  
(50.17 tons)

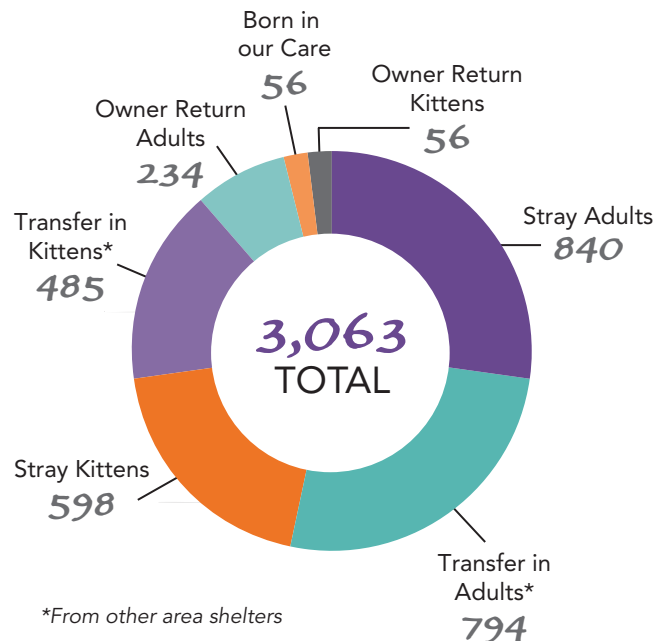
of Nestle Purina Dog and Cat food to be used for our pet pantry and the cats living at the shelter.



## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



## 2023 INTAKE







Because of you

**2,927**  
**CATS**

received a second chance.





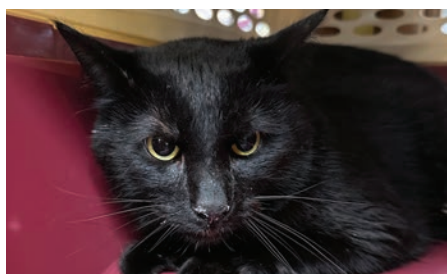
## Surrenders



**Chance**, 10 year old male, came in as a stray surrender on February 6<sup>th</sup>, shortly before the shelter was set to close on a Saturday. Chance was found by one of our volunteers after he had been stuck outside, dehydrated and was severely underweight for his age, weighing only 5.7 pounds. This friendly boy kept coming around after our volunteer began to feed him. This poor cat's fur was completely matted, with matts down to skin. He

was covered in feces down to his tail, with very dirty ears. After examination by our vet, Chance was in need of a dental and his combo test came back negative for FIV and FeLV. Due to Chance being malnourished, he was sent to a medical foster-to-adopt home to gain some strength back, with the hopes of him being able to receive a dental. Chance, a true survivor, sadly lost his battle on March 14<sup>th</sup>. His hospice foster rushed Chance in after seeing his rapid decline. Chance passed away surrounded by vet staff who loved him and a foster who truly cared for this sweet boy. Chance's paw print still hangs in our vet office and holds such a special place in the hearts of staff at Ten Lives Club.

**Dini**, a 6-year-old male, and **Leo**, a 5-year-old male, are a pair of bonded brothers who came in as personal surrenders on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Sadly, Dini and Leo's owner moved away and left them behind at their grandparent's house. Their grandparent was not able to care for the boys, so they were surrendered to our shelter for a second chance at finding a forever home. Dini, black cat, is a very social boy who enjoys being around people, snuggling on blankets and being on a harness. Leo, gray, is the slightly more timid one of the pair, but loves to sleep anywhere he will fit. It is always heartbreaking when personal pets enter our shelter as the only home they ever knew was taken from them. It is extremely difficult for personal pets to adjust to a shelter environment. Both have now been happily adopted together.



On Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, a young woman entered our shelter with a cat carrier in hand. With no appointment, she immediately started to cry and we knew this would be a difficult situation. The woman explained her situation, sadly losing her home and having to live in her vehicle. Despite her difficulties, her kitty **Nacho** remained at her side. This young woman loved her cat so much and felt that he deserved a home, and did not deserve to live in a car. She had tried to rehome the cat, but had no luck. As the cat is 5 years old and has FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), her vet recommended putting the cat down. The young woman would not allow this to happen, so she made her way to our shelter. With Nacho, she brought all of his belongings from a litter box to his favorite toys to his sweaters folded in a little container. When situations like this occur, how could we turn a cat away. This 5 year old cat is suffering from severe dental issues, causing him to yelp in pain. He is in **DESPERATE** need of a dental! Nacho was severely underweight and although his owner loved him dearly, she knew he needed help she could not provide. We could tell it was very hard for her to let him go, but we are positive this was the best place for him to seek the care he needs. She let us know that Nacho likes to sleep on your pillow, makes friends with other cats and dogs, loves to play dress-up in his sweaters and is a gentle soul. Nacho is in a loving foster home where he is steadily gaining weight. Nacho had one dental appointment at this time but due to his teeth being severe, he needs additional dental work done.





**Cosmo**, a FeLV and FIV positive 2-and-a-half-year-old male, came in as a stray from Niagara Falls in September. While this is rare for cats to have both FIV and FeLV, Cosmo was just like any other cat! While he had a weaker immune system and was more susceptible to getting sick, he remained the friendliest boy. Cosmo lived a full life, surrounded by people who loved him and even became a TV star! Cosmo's meow could melt the coldest of

hearts. Cosmo began to have seizures in November and went into a medical foster home shortly after. Sadly, his full time job as a biscuit maker was cut short on December 14<sup>th</sup> after he succumbed to his seizures. While this is a heartbreaking outcome, Cosmo passed in a loving home with a wonderful foster loving and caring for him.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, **Lilibet** and her nine kittens: **Dolce, Butternut, Maui, Lilac, Mango, Boba, Millie, Mufasa** and **ChiChi**, came in as stray surrenders from Cattaraugus County. The individual who surrendered them had witnessed Lilibet being abused by her "owners". One day the individual came



home and saw she had given birth on their front porch. They immediately brought them inside and knew they needed help as they were not safe in the "owner's" home. They brought mama and babies to our main shelter where they were placed in a loving foster home until they were ready for adoption. Lilibet was adopted into a wonderful home where she will no longer have to endure abuse from cruel people. Lilibet's babies all found loving homes out of our Eastern Hills Mall location.

The Three Musketeers: **Athos, Aramis** and **Porthos** made their way to our shelter on November 4<sup>th</sup>. These friendly boys were abandoned by those who were supposed to care for and love them. Written by the surrenderer: "On October 28<sup>th</sup>, we discovered the tenants below my daughter's apartment building had moved and left three kittens behind in horrible conditions. After contacting a bunch of rescues, Ten Lives offered to take them in. They are very friendly and loving. I trapped them and brought them to Ten Lives. They were found in Depew, NY and had been abandoned on October 27<sup>th</sup>". Aramis and Porthos have since been adopted into loving homes. Poor Athos became ill and was placed in a medical foster home to receive treatment. After a month in a foster home, Athos was finally adopted!







# Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

Back some 24 years ago when Ten Lives Club first started, FIV was a big dreadful topic in cat rescue. Most vets and shelters at that time were putting down cats that tested positive for FIV. Our group decided to learn about FIV and save cats that were FIV diagnosed. When you don't know about something it can become scary and suspicious but we took it upon ourselves to learn as much as we could on FIV. Back then, veterinarians in WNY had very strong negative opinions on FIV and encouraged euthanasia. The only two vets that were receptive to such cats and helped guide us with their care were Community Pet Clinic and Concord Veterinary Clinic with Dr. Craig Weide.

Dr. Weide really knew a lot about this disease and he even stated back then, "I wish the cat world never found out about this cat disease as so many cats are being put down due to FIV when they still could of lived nice lives." Over the many years Dr. Weide was our go to vet for our FIV cats. Sadly, some ten years ago Dr. Weide passed away and we no longer had his expertise to rely on.



*Sallie Edwards, at 5 years old, with her cat "Big Red" – a FIV+ cat.*

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is one of the most common infectious diseases of cats. FIV attacks the immune system of the cat making it more vulnerable to many other infections. Transmission for FIV is through bite wounds from an infected cat, however, casual, non-aggressive contact, such as sharing water bowls, grooming, or using the same litter box does not appear to spread the virus. Cats in households with other cats that do not fight are at little risk of acquiring FIV. FIV is transmitted through nasty bite wounds and unneutered male cats (who are likely to fight with other cats) are at the greatest risk for FIV infection. Mating with a female cat is not a significant means of spreading FIV among cats. Back in 2008 Dr. Annette Listner, an Associate Professor

of Feline Medicine at Purdue University along with our veterinarian, Dr. Sharon Fisk, did a research study using some of our female mother cats with kittens. It was found that mother cats rarely pass the FIV virus onto their kittens.

FIV only infects felines, not dogs, other animals or humans. There is currently no vaccine commercially available in the USA to protect against FIV. Recent studies suggest that cats with FIV can live an average life span. The most important thing for cats with FIV is to reduce their risk of acquiring secondary infections (such as upper respiratory infection which is like a common cold in humans). One thing FIV cats will have more of than most non-affected cats are dental problems. Inflammation of the gums and dental issues is common in cats affected with FIV. For those considering adopting a FIV cat into their hearts and home, it is not unusual to find FIV positive cats reaching 15 years or more.

Over all these many years, we are so very proud that we have successfully adopted out hundreds and hundreds of FIV cats! By educating ourselves on this cat-only disease, all these beautiful little lives were saved. Some shelters and rescues have

stopped testing cats for FIV due to the disease's low rate of cats having it and the high costs of testing. Ten Lives Club continues to test every cat that enters our program for FIV and Feline Leukemia. However, we no longer segregate our FIV cats from other cats while in our care. In 2023 alone, Ten Lives adopted out 63 FIV cats into new homes. We believe this new trend of adopting such cats is because of the increased awareness among the community and the vet world to actually save these cats rather than shorten their lives. At one time cats with FIV were considered "special needs cats" inferring there was something wrong with them. We don't see them as that but only see them as "special cats" certainly deserving of a home like other cats.

---

## INTERESTED IN ADOPTING A NEW CAT OR KITTEN?

Stop by any one of our adoption locations to find a new fur baby.  
In the meantime, look at some of these happy adoption photos.

If you wish to volunteer, helping clean cages at an adoption location near you,  
call the store coordinator number listed on the next page.





# Ten Lives Club has two new adoption locations

Thanks to your support, thousands of shares, hundreds of phone calls to our shelter and help from many real estate agents in Western New York, Ten Lives Club is proud to share that Ten Lives Club at the Eastern Hills Mall has found a new location!

We are thrilled that hundreds and hundreds of cats will now have a temporary place to call home until they find their forever homes because of you!



We are also so grateful to all of you who have restored our faith in humanity with how invested and hopeful everyone was for us to find a new adoption location.

We are looking for volunteers for both locations so please apply or just stop in!

We'd like to thank the Auctions for Animals for Animals – Benefiting Shelters & Small Rescues Facebook group for purchasing all of our stainless cages for the Walden Galleria location.



We will be located inside the **Transit Hill Plaza on Transit Road in Depew**, just a few short miles from our old location!

We would like to congratulate the Eastern Hills Mall location staff and volunteers for their passion and dedication to the

store for the last 6.5 years, helping close to 5,000 cats get adopted! We know you'll make the new location just as successful – if not more with how much you love the cats!

And some more good news! Not only has Ten Lives Club found a new location to replace our Eastern Hills Mall location, we will also have a second location inside... **Walden Galleria!**

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for all you do to make our mission of saving as many cats as we can possible! You are the real heroes!

## ADOPTION LOCATIONS

### Main Shelter

3741 Lakeshore Road  
Blasdell, NY 14219

### PetSmart #0776

1734 Walden Avenue  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

### Pet Supplies Plus #197

2952 Niagara Falls Boulevard  
Amherst, NY 14228

### Pet Supplies Plus #174

9630 Transit Road  
East Amherst, NY 14501

### Clyde's Feed

351 Union Street  
Hamburg, NY 14075

### PetSmart #2739

3957 Vineyard Dr.  
Dunkirk, NY 14048

### Pet Supplies Plus #192

4405 Milestrip Rd.  
Blasdell, NY 14219

### Pet Supplies Plus #4459

5999 South Park Avenue  
Hamburg, NY 14075

### Petco #3754

1520 Military Road, Ste 130  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

### PetSmart #2231

5722 S. Transit Road  
Lockport, NY 14094

### Pet Supplies Plus #116

2155 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216

### Xtra Dime Back

104 Englewood Ave  
Kenmore, NY 14223

### Petco #1815

330 Orchard Park Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224

### PetSmart #2748

123 Grey Street  
East Aurora, NY 14052

### Pet Supplies Plus #172

3733 Union Road, Ste 200  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

### Transit Road

6348 Transit Road, Suite #1  
Depew NY 14043

### Pet Supplies Plus #134

3340 Sheridan Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226

### Pet Supplies Plus #4055

4970 Transit Road  
Depew, NY 14043

### Galleria Mall

1 Walden Galleria  
Store C-109  
Buffalo NY 14225

**If you have a store front or building you could donate or offer at a low rent, please contact Marie at 716-646-5577, extension 5**



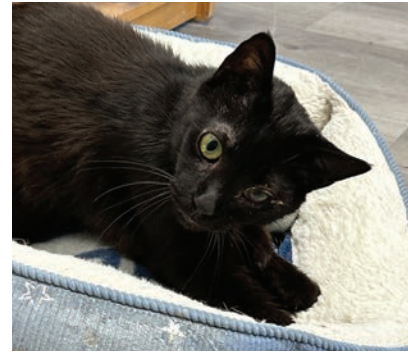


# Adoptions

Our Cat(s) of the Month for December, bonded pair **Kai** and **Santana**, found a loving furever home after being at our shelter for 8 months. Kai, a 7-year-old female, and her sister Santana, a 3-year-old female, first came in as transports from an overcrowded shelter in April. These sweet girls had been waiting MONTHS for their perfect family to come and adopt them! As it turns out, the Santana family saw Santana on our website and knew it was meant to be. When they found out she was bonded to her sister Kai, they were even more excited! We are wishing these sisters a wonderful life with their new family! Hopefully now Santana will be able to run around and lose some weight in her home...with the help of her new human pals.



Our very special boy, **Max**, went to his loving furever on December 21<sup>st</sup> with his new dad Ken! In September, 10-year-old Max first entered our shelter after his owner went into the hospital and could no longer care for him. Rather than finding a home or bringing him to a shelter, they threw him outside.



Max has a neurological condition causing his head to tilt in one direction when he walks, making him all the more special. Max also has a cloudy eye likely due to an untreated eye infection from him being put outside. Despite his difficulties, Max lives his life like any other cat! He is the happiest and sweetest boy who absolutely adores attention from both people and other cats. He even nibbles to show he loves you. This sweet boy was given a second chance and we are so happy we were able to offer him warmth, comfort and food with the support of our followers and donors. We are so happy Max found a home just in time for the holidays. This special boy is in for a wonderful life.

**Mittens**, a 1-year-old female, first came to our shelter on December 14<sup>th</sup> after being found as a stray in North Tonawanda. This sweet girl picked a furever home with lots of children and dogs to keep her company. When her new family came to visit her, she immediately perked up! As soon as they picked her up, she snuggled right up in their arms. This black and white beauty now has a loving home with a wonderful family! In addition to her dog siblings, she will have an older kitty sister to keep her on her toes. Wishing Mittens, Dana and her children a wonderful life together.



**Axel**, a 6-year-old male, and **Cartman**, a 12-year-old male, were adopted on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Not one, but two special needs kitties (thyroid) got adopted and went to the same home! Katrina and her daughter came to our shelter, looking to adopt an older cat for Katrina's father. Katrina and her daughter ended up falling in love with both Axel and Cartman. Axel was a hospice adoption, due to his chronic thyroid condition. Axel and Cartman were such special kitties, adored by everyone at the shelter. Often, it is hard to adopt out older cats, even more so when they are special

needs. Axel had been at our shelter for about 240 days and Cartman about 130 days. To have a double special needs adoption is rare and means a lot to us at Ten Lives Club as special needs cats have so much love to share! Senior kitties are in need of home just like other cats. To help them find furever homes, we offer a "Senior Kitty" Adoption Program that connects senior citizens with senior cats. Adoption fees are waived and are "by donation" – anything the senior can give. To learn more about this program, head over to our website at [www.tenlivesclub.com/senior-kitty-program](http://www.tenlivesclub.com/senior-kitty-program).





**Mama Rosie** (resident for 4 months) and **Miss Vader** (resident for 9 months), from our Shy Cat room, found a loving home together with Linda on December 21<sup>st</sup>. When Linda first came in, she knew she wanted to adopt a bonded pair and harder-to-adopt cats, falling in love with Mama Rosie and Miss Vader right away! Her cat had recently passed away and she wanted to open her home to kitties who needed it most. Mama Rosie, a one-and-a-half-year-old female, first entered our shelter in August with her four kittens. Her kittens have since been adopted and Mama Rosie finally found her purrfect fit. Miss Vader, a one-and-a-half-year-old female, originally came in as a personal surrender in March as her owner had too many cats. She is slightly more timid, but the two got along so well in the Shy Cat room. Mama Rosie is sure to help Miss Vader come out of her shell in their new home! We are so happy these sweet girls found a loving home just in time for Christmas.



On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Mustachio**, a FIV+ 2-year-old male, was brought to our shelter with a severe neck wound after being found injured on the surrenderer's front porch in Akron. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is virus that makes cats more susceptible to illnesses and can be transferred to other cats through deep wounds such as bites. His surrenderer knew he needed medical care immediately and contacted their personal vet, who would not be able to see him until the following week. They knew he needed help straight away so our wonderful vet, Dr. Fisk, rushed in to treat Mustachio. Due to his friendly personality and how comfortable he is around people, Mustachio was likely someone's pet at some point. Unfortunately, he was not well cared for as he was unneutered, not microchipped and living outside. Mustachio was weighed at 9.6 pounds and put on antibiotics for 14 days. After two weeks, he came back to our shelter for a recheck and his neuter. Besides his neck wound, Mustachio also had a tick on his head, tick bites and lice. He was given medicine to treat the lice and ticks as well as medicine for his pain and inflammation. His surrenderer named him "Mustachio" after his cute marking under his nose and graciously offered to medically foster him. Mustachio was adopted by his surrenderer on November 13<sup>th</sup>.





## The importance of fostering

As the Foster Coordinator for Ten Lives Club, of course I get a lot of questions about what fostering really requires, and what a foster home needs to be. To put it simply, foster homes are an essential part of providing proper care and treatment to rescue animals. They are temporary homes that are warm, safe places for kittens to grow big enough to be adopted to their forever families, places where skittish adult cats can learn that not all humans are scary or mean, where sick or injured kitties will get all the love and care they need to recover and thrive. This can mean many things, making fostering one of the most impactful and flexible ways to help your favorite rescue organization.

However, fostering does require a very special type of person. There are many fostering options, like kittens, medical, and hospice. While there can be heartbreak, there is also just so much joy to be found in helping these sweet souls on their journeys. Though difficult at times, it is extraordinary to watch a litter of kittens that you've raised be adopted into wonderful homes, or provide a soft landing for an adult cat who may not have had the most pleasant life. I have had many people come to me doubtful that they would be able to foster because they work or

travel, that they won't have enough space, or even just that they weren't sure where to start. Most of those people are now loving, dedicated foster parents!

In the time that I've had this role I've learned something unexpected about fostering. It's very much about everything I've mentioned, but it's also about enriching human lives. Fostering provides many things for our cats, including better socialization, increased adoption chances, and freeing up space in the shelter to help even more cats. But on the human side, fostering is generally just plain fun! Foster homes get to enjoy all the benefits of animal companionship without the cost, and the rescue will provide everything you need. So if you love cats and want to make a big difference, consider fostering for Ten Lives Club!

In 2023  
we had  
**1,896**  
cats/kittens  
in foster care

As of  
**December 31, 2023,**  
we have  
**321 foster homes.**



## Anna Steinberg and her hospice foster, Jackson

*When Jackson unfortunately lost the home he was raised in, he came to us here at TLC. Jackson is a senior kitty, and was having some problems upon his arrival. Sadly, due to the stress of his new environment and his renal disease, he was just not adjusting well. This is when I had the wonderful experience of finding his Foster Mom, Anna. Jackson has thrived under her care, and has even gained weight!*

When I signed up to be a Foster Mom with Ten Lives Club, I didn't know what to expect. I spoke with the staff and quickly decided that I'd love to do Medical Hospice Fostering. Since I have an affinity for older cats, I knew I'd be able to spoil these hospice guys for as long as they are with us.

TLC trusted me with Jackson, a 9-year-old cat with kidney disease. Jackson is easily one of the greatest loves of my life, and yes, he is being spoiled to pieces! While I know I don't have forever with him, he is so loved here. One of the best things is that he sleeps on top of my hip every single night, and we both enjoy every moment of these snuggles and our playtime during the day.

I can't thank TLC enough for trusting me with Jackson, who has brought so much love into my life! After a lot of soul searching these past few years, I have recognized that my purpose in life is to keep caring for and spoiling these Hospice kitties whenever I can."







# Groups help to save cats

We are so grateful to have dedicated volunteers who come and help out at our main shelter. Last year, we had a number of wonderful groups come to volunteer including Hilbert College Helpers, Trusted Nurse Staffing employees and Liberty Mutual employees. We are always looking for groups to come and visit the kitties, help clean and learn more about our organization.

**For volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at [www.tenlivesclub.com](http://www.tenlivesclub.com).** Ten Lives club also welcomes schools, churches and Girl/boy scouts to volunteer. We also accept most court appointed hours.



Leaving a Legacy of Compassion



Ten Lives Club  
Cat Adoption Group  
[www.tenlivesclub.com](http://www.tenlivesclub.com)

*Along with leaving monies, property, stock in your will, please consider a donation now so you can see for yourself, the impact it will make on the cats.*

For more information about Planned Giving, contact Joe at 716-646-5577 ext. 6, to receive our booklet.

*If you ever wish a personal tour to see our cat shelter and what you're helping to support, please call 716-646-5577 ext. 5 to arrange.*



## Happily Ever After...

