

Pet News

Delta County Humane Society
PO Box 1111
Delta, Colorado 81416
(970) 874-2149

October-November 2021

Web Sites: www.deltacountyhumanesociety.org or www.petfinder.com

Happy (Healthy) Cat Month – September

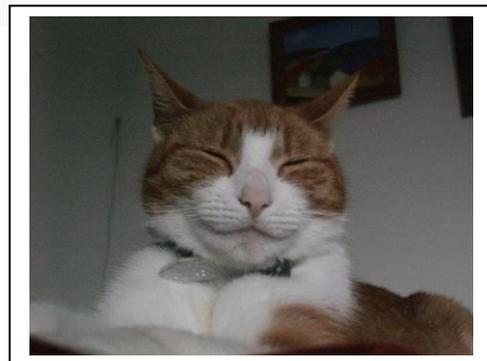
Although we're a month behind, let's explore this idea - when is the last time you thought "is my cat happy?" Most people are under the impression that cats are self-sufficient and don't need much to be content. This is not the case. Cats are social animals that need just about the same amount of attention as dogs. They show appreciation differently and the attention that they need may not always be in the form of physical contact.

The month of September has been dubbed Happy Cat Month by the CATalyst Council to help spread awareness and education about the health, welfare, and importance of companion cats.

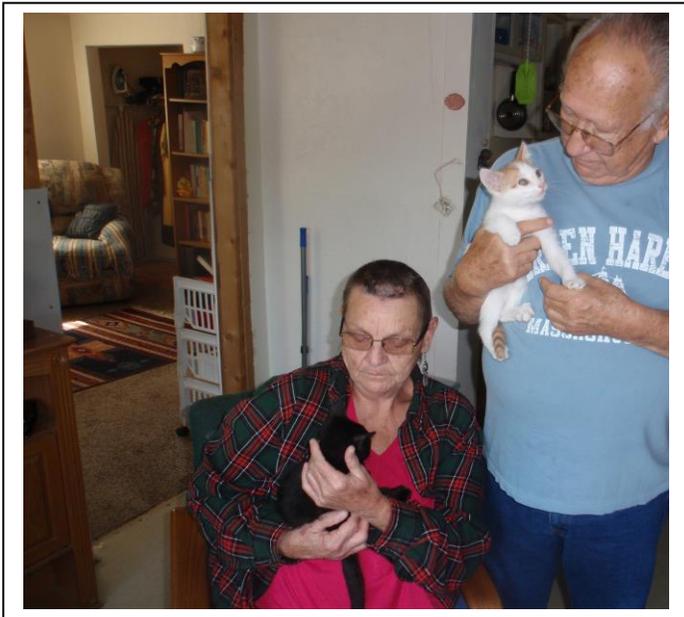
Here some ways that you can keep your cat happy in September (and throughout the year).

- **Provide a safe place to eat.** Cats are natural hunters and feel vulnerable when eating. To help prevent vulnerability, place their food bowls away from the wall to give them some space. If dogs share the home, put their bowls on a counter or designated feeding table. Cats stress if they feel they are unable to safely eat or drink.
- **Provide a clean litter box.** Cats are also vulnerable when using their litter boxes which is why they should be in a safe, easily accessible place. It is recommended that litter boxes are scooped daily, especially for multiple cat homes.
- **Provide cat toys for play time.** Not only are they having fun, but they are always getting the mental and physical stimulation needed to promote health and happiness. Also set aside some personal time for interacting and playing with your cat.
- **Keep your cat lean and fit.** Keep track of your cat's food and make sure they are getting actual nutrition and not just fillers. It is also imperative to provide opportunities for exercise, such as interactive toys. Overweight cats are much more susceptible to illnesses, such as diabetes.
- **Provide places for your cat to get high and low.** Cats love to hide and explore. Cats often climb trees to survey the territory or hide as prey. Providing tall cat trees or empty tops of cabinets, allows them to meet these instinctive needs.
- **If your cat loves going outside,** consider providing them with a "catio." A catio is a safe place outside (often a patio) where they are free to hang out unsupervised.
- **Regular visits to the vet.** As we all know, a healthy cat is a happy cat. 😊

Resources: PetMD, Petsit.com, Catalyst Council

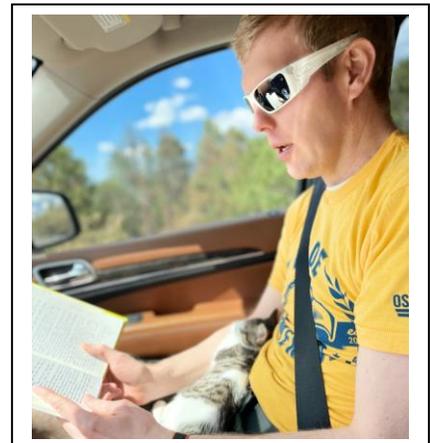
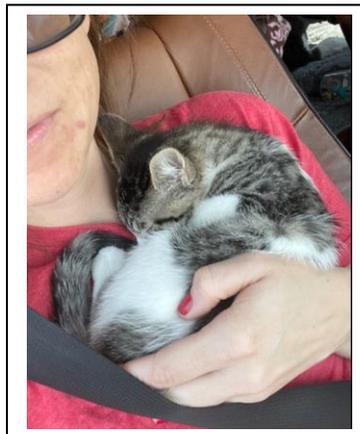
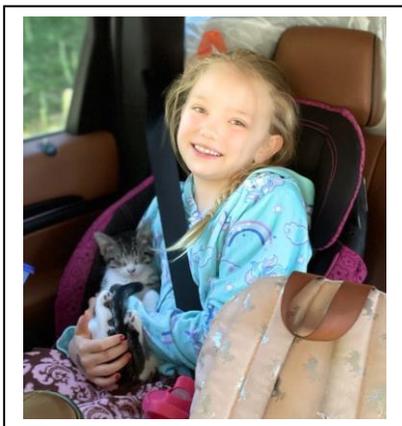


Speaking of happy cats, here are a few that are very happy now that they have a forever home . . .

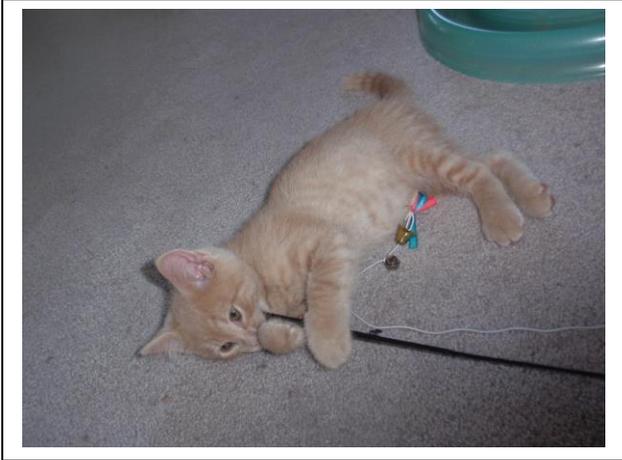


← Linda and John had a cat for a long time but recently lost it – and they missed having a cat in their lap. They called Joan (DCHS foster mom) in mid-July and asked about her kittens. This time they wanted two kitties, so they each could have one. They adopted “Jade” and “Yukon” – since there are no other pets or children in their new home, these two kittens will get ALL the attention that Linda and John will give them. Super adoption – thank you!!

The photo to the right was taken at the time of adoption on July 7. Jaime (mom) is shown here with her daughter, Joceline, and her niece, Emery. The family was spending time in Silverton, Colo. when they saw “Nutter Butter” up for adoption. This kitten got his forever family (including a dog) and became a travelin’ cat. He went back with them to Silverton to spend a few days, and then made the long trip to their permanent residence in Prescott, AZ. But, as you can see by the photos below, he got attention from everyone on the ride home. What an adventure!



More "Happy Cat" adoptions . . .

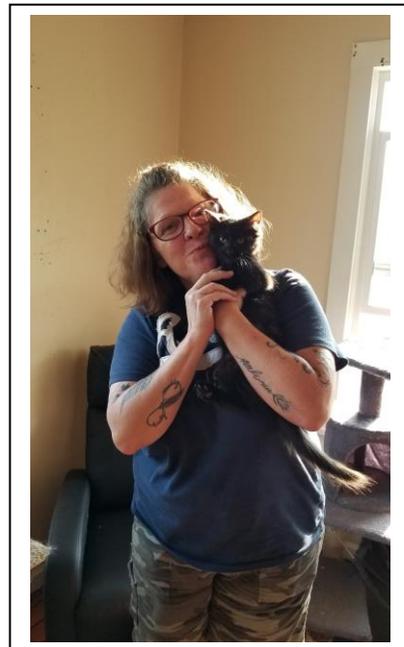


← Lily and Jerry of Grand Junction, Colo. adopted this cutie on July 23. Joan (foster mom) had named him "Chunk," said he came from a litter of three, and all looked very much the same. However, when Lily and Jerry arrived to pick out their kitten, Chunk went right to Jerry for a belly rub, and that was it – he was adopted!

At the time of his adoption, he was going to be the only pet in their household – however, a few days later Lily and Jerry called Joan to say that they would also like to adopt "Ditto" and "Turtle" too so that all three kittens could play and stay together. How great is that !! Lily works from home so she gets to play with 3 kittens and enjoy all their antics. We hope that we will receive new photos of these adorable kittens as they grow and become part of a loving family. Thank you both for opening your hearts to include this adorable trio!



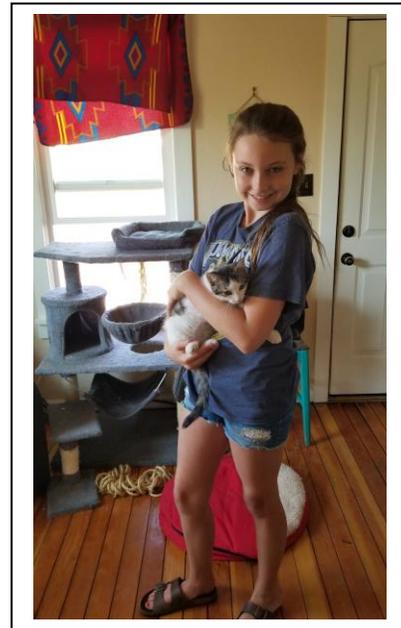
Kris and "Moon Pie" had an instant connection when they met at Chris' (foster mom) house in Cedaredge on August 14. Kris had originally come to meet another kitty named Nugget, but when she saw Moon Pie, that was it. Kris lost a black cat recently and Moon Pie now filled that void. Moon Pie will live in Clifton, Colo. with Kris, another young cat named Romeo and an elderly dog that will be glad that Romeo now has another playmate. Great adoption! →



And, yes, one more cat adoption – ain't it great?

And “Nugget” got adopted anyway, because Ashley was in the wings waiting to adopt him. Ashley has wanted a pet for a while and has been saving her money. She paid for Nugget's adoption herself (mom, Amber, paid for kitten supplies). Nugget will be an only pet and has lots of play time in his future, and now lives happily with Ashley in Paonia, Colo.

Thank you, Ashley, for adopting Nugget – we hope that you'll be able to send us photos of him as he grows up. →



“A dog will teach you unconditional love. If you have that in your life, things won't be too bad.” - Robert Wagner

Diabetes in Cats *(courtesy of ASPCA)*

Diabetes in cats is a complex disease caused by either a lack of the hormone insulin or an inadequate response to insulin. After a cat eats, her digestive system breaks food into various components, including glucose—which is carried into her cells by insulin. When a cat does not produce insulin or cannot utilize it normally, her blood sugar levels elevate. The result is hyperglycemia, which, if left untreated, can cause many complicated health problems for a cat.

It is important to understand that diabetes is considered a manageable disorder—and many diabetic cats can lead happy, healthy lives. Some may even go into remission!

Diabetes can be classified as:

- Type I (lack of insulin production)
- Type II (impaired insulin production along with an inadequate response to the hormone).

Cats with type II diabetes can progress to type I diabetes. In fact, by the time most cats are diagnosed with diabetes, they are identified as having the type I disorder. These cats require insulin therapy for survival. Cats with type II disease may respond to other forms of therapy.

Diabetes Symptoms in Cats

The following are signs that your cat may be diabetic:

- Change in appetite (either increased or decreased)
- Weight loss
- Excessive thirst/increase in water consumption
- Increased urination
- Urinating in areas other than litter box
- Unusually sweet-smelling breath
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Unkempt hair coat
- Urinary tract infection

Causes of Diabetes

The exact cause of diabetes is unknown. Genetics, pancreatic disease, certain medications and abnormal protein deposits in the pancreas can play a role in causing this disorder.

The most important factors in the development of diabetes seem to be obesity, gender (male cats are more commonly afflicted than females) and age.

Diagnosing Diabetes

To properly diagnose diabetes, your veterinarian will collect information about clinical signs, perform a physical examination and check blood work and urinalysis.

Treating Diabetes

- Every diabetic cat is an individual and will respond differently to therapy. Diabetes treatment is based on how severe the signs of disease are and whether there are any other health issues that could complicate therapy.
- Some cats are seriously ill when first diagnosed and require intensive hospitalized care for several days to regulate their blood sugar levels.
- Cats who are more stable when first diagnosed may respond to oral medication or a high-fiber diet.
- For most cats, insulin injections are necessary for adequate regulation of blood glucose. Once your pet's individual insulin treatment is established, typically based on weight, you will be shown how to give him his insulin injections at home.
- Your vet may also show you how to perform glucose tests at home. Other routine blood work may also be necessary.

As your veterinarian will explain, it's important to always give your cat insulin at the same time every day and feed her regular meals in conjunction with her medication; this allows increased nutrients in the blood to coincide with peak insulin level. This will lessen the chance that her sugar levels will swing either too high or too low. You can work with your vet to create a feeding schedule around your pet's medication time. It is also important to avoid feeding your diabetic cat treats that are high in glucose.

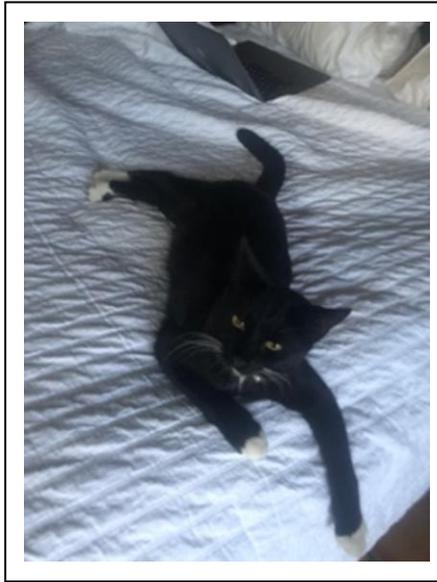
Diabetes Prevention

A proper diet and regular exercise can go a long way to avoid the development of feline diabetes. Aside from other negative effects, obesity is known to contribute to insulin resistance.

If You Suspect Your Cat Has Diabetes

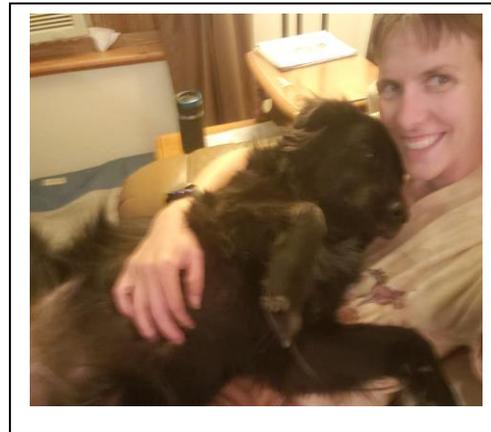
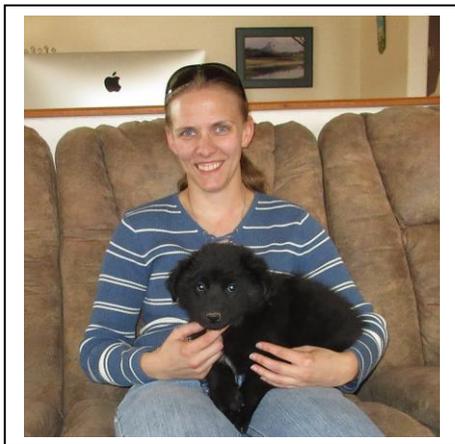
If your cat is showing any abnormal clinical signs as listed above, make an appointment to see your veterinarian immediately. If a diabetic cat is not treated, he can develop kidney disease, neurological disorders or other metabolic diseases. Cats with type I diabetes require insulin therapy for survival.

Past Adoption Updates – keep ‘em coming !!



← This is “Cheesy Louisee,” but goes by “Louisee” most of the time. Kristen, of Grand Junction, Colo., adopted her in March 2021, and tells us that her wonderful kitty is full of energy, sweet, very attentive, and has lots of CATitude. Louisee gets outside play time but is mainly Kristen’s inside BFF and likes to take long naps behind her computer while she works from home.

By the looks of the photo, we can tell that Louisee has made herself very comfortable in Kristen’s home and in her life. This is one adoption that turned out to be purr-fect!



Then (adopted in October 2018) and now (taken in September 2021)

Jessica adopted “Karrigan” three years ago when she fell in love with that ball of fluff, and as you can tell by the later photo, Karrigan is still her best friend. Jessica tells us that Karrigan loves her baby canine sister and continues to mediate the disagreements between the housecats. We’re all happy to see that Karrigan has such a loving home.

Who says that dogs and cats don't get along ??? These photos tell us otherwise . . .



Halloween Dangers to Dogs & Cats

- Chocolate. Of all candy, chocolate is one of the most toxic to pets. ...
- Candy. Pets are indiscriminate when it comes to eating tasty treats and can gorge themselves on snacks and food meant for humans.
- Grapes and Raisins. ...
- Candy Wrappers. Pets will sometimes eat the candy while still in the wrapper. ...
- Glow Sticks and Glow Jewelry. ...
- Costumes. If you dress your pet in a costume, be sure it doesn't impair its vision, movement or air intake. ...
- Candles. Curious noses & wagging tails can easily get burned.



Hey, someone tell this kid that I'm not a chew toy.

The Delta County Humane Society is a non-profit organization. This means all of your donations of money and materials are tax deductible. The organization is not funded by your government tax dollars. This is why YOUR membership and donations are so very vital to us. As many of you are aware, we have only a small force of volunteers who care for the abandoned and unwanted animals in their homes until they can be provided with a permanent and suitable home. If you are concerned with the well-being of our animals and would like to help financially with a membership or donation, please fill out this form and return it with your check. If you have material items with a value, please call our office (970-874-2149) and leave a message. (We are always in need of blankets, towels, dog houses and runs, pet food, carriers, collars, leashes, food bowls, large food storage containers, wire fencing, etc.)

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MEMBERSHIP: \$10 (annual) \$20 (supporting) \$100 (lifetime)

MEMBERSHIP: \$ _____ DONATION: \$ _____ PHONE: _____

GYPSY FUND DONATION \$ _____ (feral cats)

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MAIL TO: DELTA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1111
DELTA, CO 81416

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE HOMELESS ANIMALS
OF DELTA COUNTY