



Website: <https://www.KittyKind.org>

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## September/October 2020 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

In March, when KittyKind had to close because of Covid-19, volunteers worried how homeless cats would get adopted. Who would see them? How would the adoption process work? Read below to find out how the dedicated adoption reps have adopted over two hundred cats since March! Also, for those interested in adopting, see the “GPS” of the process.

### ONLINE REPLACES ONSITE

**From Marie M., Adoption Representative and Database Manager:**

When KittyKind closed in the spring, all applications were submitted electronically. This was a big change from our previous procedure, where applications had to be filled out onsite at our Petco Union Square location, even if the cat was in foster.

There are definitely benefits to taking applications in person—we can glean a lot of information from how a person interacts with cats in our space, and how they interact with us during the interview. Someone who may come in with several boisterous children could at first seem to be a bad match for that cranky senior cat, but then we see the children interact with the cat in a gentle and respectful manor, and we know it will work out fine. And when we see someone interacting with a kitten in a way that encourages aggression, we can instruct the person not to do that. All that’s gone! But the tradeoff is that all the adoption reps can interview prospective adopters during any available hours and can conduct the interview and home visit at the same time.

Very little else has changed for us. We still interview and conduct a home visit, but it’s all virtual now. We still require kittens to be adopted in pairs. Our vaccinations team (Kathy S, Jean F, and sometimes Marie M) has been vaccinating at fosterers’ and adopters’ homes since Vetco was closed since March, and it has only opened recently with limited appointments available. Kimberly, our Spay/Neuter coordinator, has needed to do additional work, getting some kittens neutered early at Cooper Square Veterinary, because the ASPCA spay/neuter clinic was closed for months and even now only has limited appointments.

Zoom and FaceTime has become our new way of interacting with adopters. Some older adopters have only been able to do phone interviews, and our foster team, along with Jean and Kathy, have been showing and delivering cats and kittens all over town.”

#### Contributors

Jean Fox  
Valerie Vlasaty  
Josie Wang  
Beverly Wilson

#### Visuals

Michael Ma  
Marie Mundaca

### Marie M, continued:

"I've been involved with quite a few rewarding adoptions during the pandemic. My two favorites have been Stanley, an FIV positive adult, and Bam Bam and Cheetah, two kittens from different rescuers.

### Bam Bam and Cheetah

Bam Bam and Cheetah came from two different litters, but the logistical challenges were all worth it!

The adopter had four children at home, all under the age of 10, who were desperate for some furry kitten love. We had a brief FaceTime conversation that included a lot of interruptions from her two youngest wanting to see the kittens. Unfortunately, I didn't have them!

After approving her, we all agreed on a time to meet—Bam Bam's rescuer was coming from Jersey City, and Cheetah's rescuer was coming from Inwood, and luckily, we were meeting in Harlem. I picked up Bam Bam in midtown, and met Cheetah outside the new adopter's apartment, but we couldn't both go in because of the pandemic. But when I rang the buzzer, four very excited children bounded down the stairs to meet their new fuzzy babies!

When we got upstairs, the two oldest took charge and each held a kitten close and showed them where everything was. It was very sweet to see how kittens can improve a family's lives during such a stressful time."

### Stanley

The woman who adopted Stanley had inquired about Nina, who had an application at that time. She was looking for a snuggly, low-key adult who was easy going and non-aggressive. And a tabby—she wanted a tabby. I sent her a list of cats who might fit the bill, and she was quite taken with Stanley, but she wasn't sure about his FIV positive status. After emailing her some info, she felt prepared to move forward with speaking to me, and then Stanley's rescuer.

Since she had zoom on her iPad, we were able to talk face-to-face. We looked at the plants and the windows, and everything looked good. Then she told me she was also talking to the ASPCA because she had recently returned a cat to them!

Uh-oh! I needed to dig into this further. It turned out the ASPCA had sent her a teenager who was very rambunctious. After being bitten a few times, she took him to the vet to make sure everything was OK medically, and she also paid for several sessions with a cat behaviorist. It seemed pretty clear to everyone that this teenager needed another cat to play with, and the ASPCA took him back to adopt him out to a more appropriate home. She showed me the large, but healing, scar she had on her arm from one attack.

Satisfied that she'd done all she could, and verifying this with her vet, we directed her to the rescuer, who didn't have any way to meet with her virtually. But he did have a car, and after describing Stanley to the adopter, she was willing to take a chance on a trial adoption.

Within hours of being dropped off, the adopter sent me a photo of Stanley hanging out on her bed. She asked about finalizing.



WE WERE ADOPTED VIRTUALLY!  
{Photos of Stanley, Bam Bam and Cheetah}

## A “GPS” OF KITTYKIND ADOPTIONS



### From Gary K Adoption Representative:

“I was initially reluctant to attempt the adoption process remotely, as so much of it is gut feelings and instincts. Also, many people project the personality of an animal from a single picture and can be surprised and/or disappointed if it doesn’t match up to their hopes and expectations.

I probably play up the challenges a bit more when doing the interviews remotely but am happy to report that we have had great luck with making good matches. It’s not the cat’s fault there’s a pandemic, so I’m happy we can all pitch in and get them loving homes!”

### From Ina J. Adoption Representative:

“I responded to over 50 emails a week from people interested in adopting a cat or kitten. Many of those submitted applications. I sent the applications to Josh who followed through on most of them and sent some to Marie and Gary. It has been amazing that so many cats and kittens have been adopted with virtual interviews and meet and greets.

Everyone involved including the adoption team, foster team, meds team, media team, Jean and all of the wonderful people fostering our cats have made this all possible.”







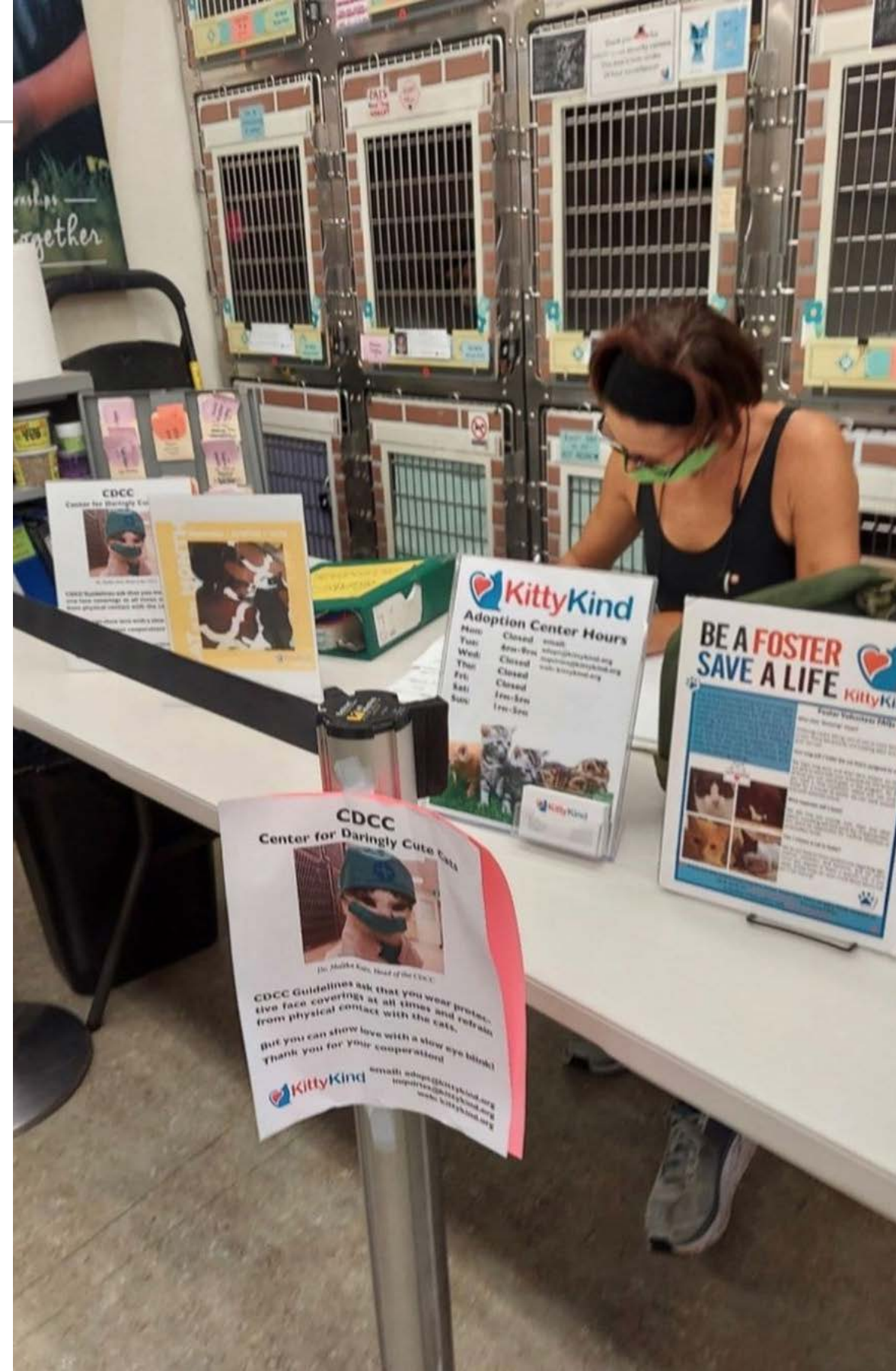
## KITTYKIND IS NOW OPEN!

From Jean Fox, Director of KittyKind

In order to keep the crowds down our area must be blocked off from the public at all times. Only potential adopters are allowed to interact with the cats and only 1 person at a time. Only two volunteers are allowed in our area at 1 time.

No one from the general public will be allowed to touch the cats. Petco wants us to practice social distancing with the public as well as our cats. Our adoption hours are below. These hours may increase as Petco sees how things go. We are only allowed to have 8 cats to start with, not 16.

Adoptions procedures have changed since the start of the pandemic, but the standards are still the same—we want to match great cats with great homes."



## FROM THE VOLUNTEERS: RECENT RESCUES AND ADOPTIONS

### From Valerie B: Health-Maintenance Volunteer: High Five

It all began with a text...

Julie: Wouldn't you like this kitty? Friendly.  
New on st. Needs home!

Me: Thinking....

Me: I'll talk to Chris....

Me: Chris is pro cat....

Julie: Do you want to see if we can trap her  
Sunday?

Me: OK.

I'd been hoping to adopt a new cat, and my friend Julie knew it. My partner Chris and I lost our funny, sweet, playful Little Boy last summer, and even though we have three beloved older kitties, I was looking for an energetic and affectionate youngster to add to the mix.

A couple of weeks went by while Julie organized things, and the cat was trapped. Julie drove over from Riverdale, and we isolated the cat in the bathtub on the first night.

That's when we made a few discoveries.

Julie: How's it going?

Me: Good! I'm not petting her much because she has some spots that look like ringworm. It's a struggle, though. She's so sweet!...

Later

By the first night, I knew the cat was a lanky, outgoing male, not a



petite female as we initially thought.

He seemed to grow longer and taller the more he relaxed, and he was crazy about pets, food and treats. All that was great with us, and I was already over the moon. I was so happy we saved him from the street, since he was friendly and gentle and clearly loved attention from people. All we needed to do was clear up the ringworm was get him to the vet the next day for testing. Or so we thought...

When we got to the vet. it was curbside drop off, and I texted Julie every time the vet called me with news.

Me: He's neutered.

Me: Has RW for sure.

Me: Oh...crap...he has microchip!! : (

The possibility that he might be chipped hadn't even occurred to us.

He'd been outside several weeks, and Julie said no one had put up signs or come looking for him. The vet said that she had to notify the owner listed on the microchip immediately, and here was no settled rule about how long that person might have to call back and claim him. She thought a safe period would be about three weeks.

This, as far as I was concerned, was a total disaster. I was willing to deal with any problems a new cat might have, but not if he belonged to someone else! I already loved him it would be too painful if someone came and took him away.

I needed to talk to someone who would understand, so I called some of the people I know at KittyKind. They helped talk us down and make practical plans to deal with the ringworm, the remainder of his vetting, and the worry that we might lose him at any time. After 15 years as a volunteer, I felt KittyKind was my safety net and I was right. My friends and co-volunteers were there for me when I needed them, and they helped us make good and stop panicking.

We kept him in the bathtub and treated him so he wouldn't spread



## FROM THE VOLUNTEERS: RECENT RESCUES AND ADOPTIONS

### From Valerie B: Health-Maintenance Volunteer: High Five cont.

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We kept him in the bathtub and treated him so he wouldn't spread ringworm, and a day went by with no call. Then two, then three. He was happy and healthy, if a little itchy. And he really wanted to make friends.

Me:



Have name for cat: High Five.

Julie: Awwww...

Once we had a name, we felt even more he was ours. If no one had called back in three days, how likely was it they would ever call? I was still worried, though. Then a week went by, then two, then three! I still

don't know the rule, but for me, the waiting was over. The ringworm cleared up, and even though it's close quarters here, no one else got it. He was freed forever from the tub.

Julie: How's High Five?

Me: He is sitting in my lap.

Me: I love him.

It's been about two months now, and we're still discovering new things about High Five every day. He LOVES to play. He has a mischievous side and enjoys surprising the other cats from around corners and under the bed (they do not care for this, but it does wake them up). He purrs and drapes across my chest. He bites a little, but we forgive him. Oh, and he is the only cat I ever had that does this...



I know more surprises are in store, but for now, I expect them to be good ones. Thank you, KittyKind, for helping give this story such a happy ending.

## FROM THE VOLUNTEERS: RECENT RESCUES AND ADOPTIONS

### From Marissa G.: Tiny

This petite lady came into our lives this summer, and she is bringing us (and my big boy cat, Malcolm) so much joy! I wasn't looking for Tiny (short for Clementine - the artist formerly known by her KittyKind name Natasha) when her big beautiful eyes graced my Instagram newsfeed, but I just knew she'd be a perfect fit in our home.

She loves to play, is curious and sweet, and has the best disposition. Here is a picture of Tiny and Malcolm attempting to share a spring toy!



## PETCO PERKS FOR ADOPTERS

**Just adopted  
a pet?**

**Welcome to the  
Petco Family!**

**petco**



## Free Welcome to the Family Adopter Booklet with Coupons

Let your new adopters know that they can bring their adoption paperwork into their local **Petco store** to get a free Welcome to the Family booklet with coupons to help get them started on the right paw!

**LEARN MORE**



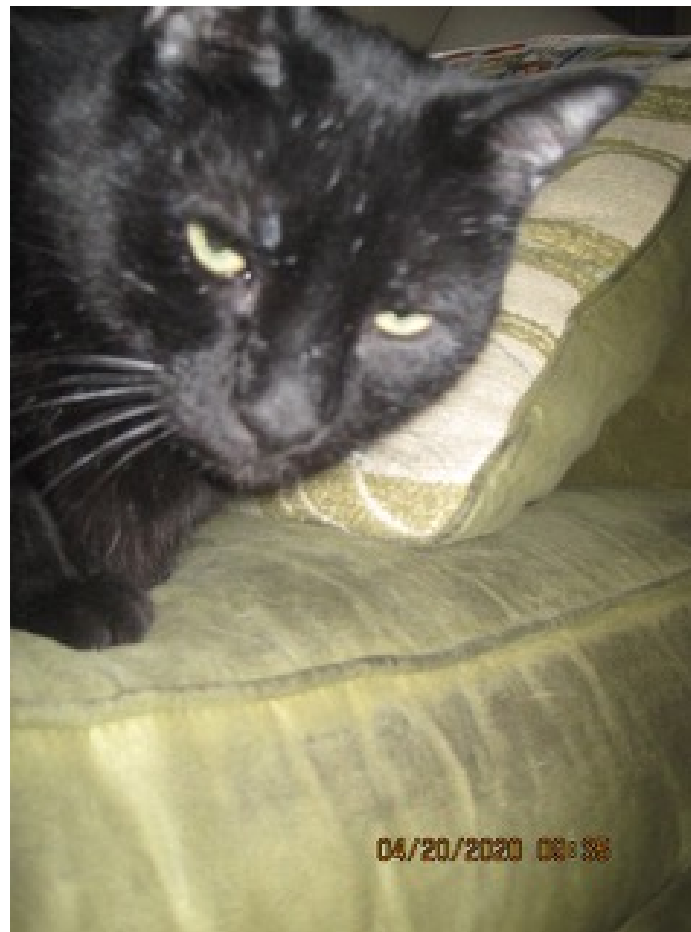
## A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped two very at-risk cats. Loli, a formerly dumped cat at KittyKind, first fostered and now adopted by Han W., needs ongoing treatment for lymphoma. Because of your generosity with Go Fund Me and the Chipotle fundraiser, KittyKind was able to raise \$2,000 for Loli's medical bills.

"Brother One," one of two brothers Paula K. rescued from a boarded-up deli in March when New City closed, can now have his heart medication because of the \$900 that donors contributed to his Go Fund Me page.



**Loli, Birthday Party with New Toys**



**Brother One, Finally, A Place to Rest His Head**

Although the adoption site closed for many months, KittyKind stayed open, and hundreds of homeless cats now "shelter at home."

