



June 2026

Dear Friends,

Many people we meet love to share stories of the free-roaming, under-socialized cats in their neighborhoods, cats they've befriended and admired from a distance, and with whom they've developed close relationships. Some of these cats can become displaced by neighborhood development, a caregiver who leaves and a new homeowner who wants them gone, or a family who collects too many cats and cannot care for them. These are the types of cats we welcome into our sanctuary. Some go into permanent sanctuary; others stay with us until they are ready to become part of a human family indoors. The cats require special care, consideration, and time, with effort that differs from tame cats.

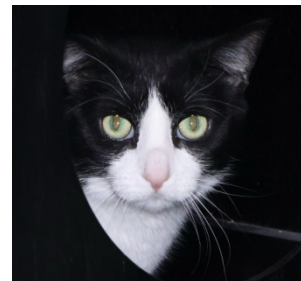
In our LFFAC shelter we've worked hard to come up with ways to interact with our under-socialized cats while minimizing their stress and fear, as we convince them that humans can be fun and loving as we prepare them for their future with a human family. Unlike working with socialized cats, our volunteers are ever mindful of the balance of care needed for our cats while protecting the trust we've gained through hard work and time. Here are a few of our recent stories.

A Pathway for Chloe

Chloe is a transfer kitten who had been living in a small colony room at the LFFAC shelter, where unhealthy interactions with other cats suggested she needed to move to a private suite where she could receive more intensive training without the distraction and annoyance of other cats. It was important for us to achieve that without creating stress for her.



She could not be handled, so volunteers Sue, Kira, and Ketu, came up with a clever plan. They created a pathway out of paper and pointed her toward her room with a view, a bay window that overlooks a bird feeder and other wildlife. She walked down the hallway, with a little coaxing from her friends, to the other end of the shelter toward her new home. It took her a bit to become acclimated, but Cleo is now thriving on all the attention she's getting from the volunteers. The paper pathway is symbolic, we think, of the broader socialization pathway to a new human home for Chloe.



A Major Medical Encounter for Samantha

It's a busy time of year for the seventeen cats in our sanctuary colony cattery and the volunteers who care for them—the cats need their vaccinations and checkups and perhaps extra medical care. At the beginning of the year, Deb, the cattery manager, and Christina, colony volunteer, devised a plan to get all the cats to appointments. This is quite a feat for that

number of free-roaming, under-socialized (feral) cats in a large cattery—it requires coordination with the helpful veterinary staff at Family Pet Hospital, where all of our cats require anesthesia and sometimes multiple visits.



When Samantha's number came up for what began as a routine veterinary exam, it turned out that she needed significant medical care. She was suffering from a diseased eye that required removal, as well as dental disease that needed treatment. For an under-socialized cat, medical care can be especially challenging—Samantha's required two veterinary visits and six weeks recovering at Deb's home, where she received lots of the care and attention needed to heal. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, veterinary partners, and supporters like you, Samantha is back with her colony friends and thriving.

Multipurpose Holding Areas inside the Cattery

After Samantha's long stay at Deb's, we set out to develop a way to accommodate such a stay at the cattery. We needed space for them to move about freely and yet be confined enough for the care and access required. We wanted the cats to be able to stay with their colony buddies so that they would experience less stress and maintain the relationships they have with the other cats, making their return to the open cattery space easier. Deb designed two holding areas, one for each colony area, which were completed in April. Not only do they make it easier for the existing cats (and Deb), we'll be able to use them to safely introduce new cats coming into the catteries for the first time.

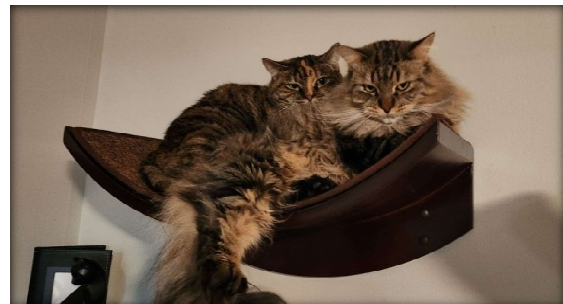


The work we do would not be possible without the generosity of supporters like you. Every veterinary visit, every safe place to recover, every meal, and every success story begins with the kindness of people who care about the cats we serve. Your donation helps provide support for cats who would not otherwise have these things. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us give these cats a chance at their best lives. Together, we can continue creating more success stories for the cats who come through our care.

Sincerely,

Esther A. Mills

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President, Board of Directors



We're Rex and Jasmine, and are looking for our new home! Check us out at www.longmontfriendsofcats.org.

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