



THE KITTEN POST

The National Kitten Coalition Newsletter

WINTER 2021



PRECIOUS CARGO: A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

Sara volunteers with The Community Cat Alliance (CCA), a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) organization that she helped start in 2014 that serves its community in rural Virginia. As the number of its TNR activities grew, so too did the number of unweaned kittens that needed fostering. By 2018, the local rescues and animal shelters were no longer able to keep up with the increased population of kittens the TNR program wanted to save.



IN THIS ISSUE...

- PRECIOUS CARGO: A VOLUNTEER'S STORY
- A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ASPCA
- MEET THE NKC'S "MEW" BOARD MEMBER
- THE NKC'S IMPACT IN 2020
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- VOLUNTEER WITH THE NKC!

A VOLUNTEER'S STORY CONTINUED

The CCA reached out to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA), which was in the process of expanding its Kitten College program. Marnie Russ, the AWLA's National Kitten College Program Administrator, agreed to take as many unweaned and very young kittens as possible from The CCA's area and other challenged locations in Virginia. Sara's rescue activities kicked into high gear.

Sara started transporting "bottle babies" and other kittens from The CCA and local shelters and rescues to the AWLA. On a good day without traffic or weather, the 90-mile one-way trip takes about 2 hours so Sara carries food and supplies. Very young kittens need to be stimulated to take a "bathroom break" so she pulls over to toilet agitated kittens who don't settle down. Sara sings and offers travelogues as she and the kittens cross the Blue Ridge mountains, pass toll booths and approach the big city. She assures her precious cargo that they'll soon be with wonderful fosters and then on a new road — to forever homes.

Sometimes Sara cares for kittens in her home for a day or two before she can transport them to the AWLA. She credits The National Kitten Coalition's workshops and webinars she's attended with giving her the basic knowledge and confidence to care for the little ones.



To date, Sara has transported 261 kittens. Way to go Sara!

So if you've ever wondered how you can help very young kittens short of fostering them, think about becoming a valuable transporter, shepherding these little ones to waiting foster homes. You too would be a vital link in the chain that saves kittens. Check out The [NKC's website](#) to learn more about the many ways YOU can help "bottle babies" and other kittens.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ASPCA!

The National Kitten Coalition is honored to be a recipient of another generous COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®). These funds will help us reach our 2021 strategic goals for virtual learning offerings. These include more online NKC workshops and free Kitten Mom webinars, as well as a new online Kitten Nursery Conference in March, the popular Online Kitten Conference in June and our Veterinary Conference in September. Thank you ASPCA®!



MEET THE NKC'S "MEW" BOARD MEMBER

For as long as she can remember, Nancy Peterson has loved cats. As a child, she enjoyed being a cat, crawling around her house on all fours and lapping up milk from a saucer. She thought this was a common childhood behavior, but when she mentioned it to others, she was greeted with strange reactions. She got even less enthusiastic reactions when she told adults that she wanted to be a zookeeper when she grew up. They said it was a dangerous, dirty and difficult job.



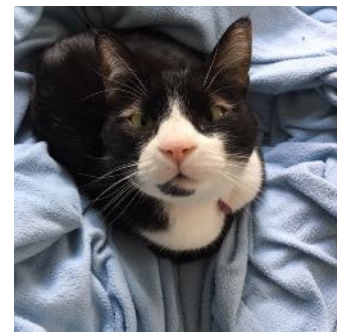
So Nancy forgot about her love of animals and got a B.A. in anthropology. However, when she moved from New York City to San Diego, her passion for animals resurfaced. She went back to school and got an A.S. in animal health technology. For the next 12-1/2 years, she worked as a registered veterinary technician in two small animal practices. Next, she transitioned to training dogs for people with disabilities other than blindness.

In 1997, Nancy moved to Maryland and landed a dream job with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the country's largest animal protection organization. She was thrilled to be able to help animals on a national and international scale. She worked on issues that included coping with allergies to pets, promoting pet-friendly rental policies, resolving unwanted pet behaviors and advocating for community cats.

It was during her time at The HSUS that Nancy met Rosemarie Crawford and Susan Spaulding, co-founders of Feline Outreach, Rescue and Education (the forerunner of The National Kitten Coalition). Nancy has been their big fan ever since.

Although she retired in 2015, Nancy continues to help cats. She moved to a small rural mountain town in western Colorado and volunteers as a cat cuddler and kitten foster for her local animal shelter. Nancy also enjoys birding, hiking, gardening and traveling.

Nancy shares her home with her sister Judie and 10-year-old Jenny, one of five feral kitten siblings she fostered. Jenny was named after the kind woman who rescued her and her littermates.



THE NKC'S IMPACT IN 2020: THAT'S A LOT OF KITTENS!

The NKC hosted **61** teaching events in 2020

More than **4,400** individuals attended our workshops, webinars or conferences

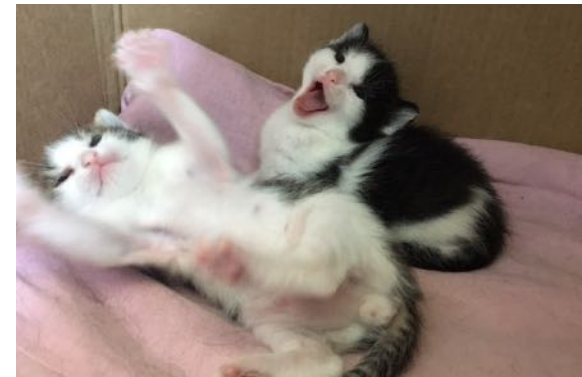
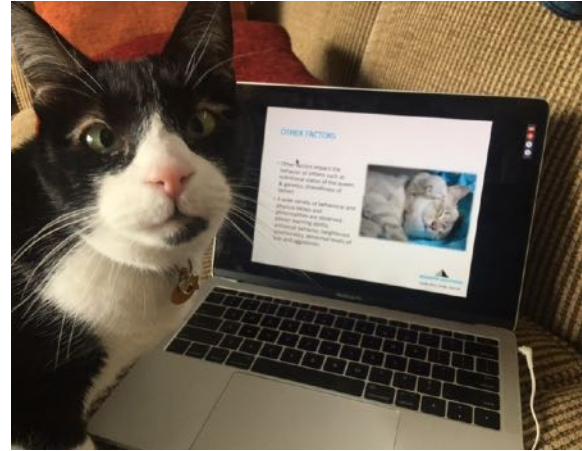
Those attendees care for, on average, **48** kittens per year

Which means.....

..... **OVER 210,000** kittens will be impacted by our life-saving information!

You can see the details of our life-saving activities in our 2020 annual statistical [report](#). To learn more about The NKC or to donate, visit www.kittencoalition.org. You can also help The NKC by designating it as your charity of choice at [AmazonSmile](#).

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THESE LIFE-SAVING PROGRAMS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!



SAVE KITTENS EVERY MONTH!

Want to save kittens but can't foster? A donation to The NKC of \$15 a month — 50 cents a day! — saves a litter of five kittens every month. What a powerful and easy way to save kittens. You can set up your monthly donation by clicking on the [Donate link](#) below. Thank you for helping to save kittens!

[PLEASE DONATE NOW!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The New Normal: Spay/Neuter by Five Months of Age

Monday, January 18, 2021, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM EST

The National Kitten Coalition is excited to host Dr. Philip Bushby, a faculty member of Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Esther Mechler, from Marian's Dream's Feline Fix by Five Months program, for a free webinar on spaying/neutering kittens by five months of age.

To register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4058934446112442126?source=1.18.21+Newsletter>



Online Cat Conference

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 29, 30 and 31, 2021

Online Kitten Conference partner [The Community Cats Podcast](#) is hosting an Online Cat Conference for those who want to help community cats.

To register:

<https://www.communitycatspodcast.com/product/online-cat-conference-2021/>



Navigating a Kitten's Developmental Journey – Helping Clients Help Kittens

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 4:30 PM-5:30 PM EST

To register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6751537268504805899?source=2.4.21+Newsletter>

Save the Dates: We Are Scheduling Our First Kitten Nursery Conference

A Kitten Nursery Without Walls, Saturday, March 27, 2021, 4:00 PM-6:00 pm EDT

A Kitten Nursery With Walls, Kinda Sorta, Saturday, April 10, 2021, time TBD

Dealing With Curve Balls, Saturday, April 24, 2021, time TBD

New Webinar Content Now Available

2020 was great year for new NKC webinar content. Please check out our Recorded Webinar page to view webinars, like The Scoop on Poop, Diarrhea on The Run and others, that you would like to watch again or for the first time. Visit <https://kittencoalition.org/resources/archived-webinars>.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE NKC!!

DID YOU KNOW? Most of The NKC's staff and board of directors are dedicated volunteers. We're a great team and would love to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering with us. Please write to info@kittencoalition.org if you have questions regarding any of the volunteer positions listed below and to express your interest, by **January 22, 2021**. Please forward this message to others you think would be interested in any of these positions. Thanks!

The NKC seeks:

- a **lawyer** licensed in the State of Virginia to provide *pro bono* advice, on an infrequent basis, primarily regarding employment law and other nonprofit legal issues that arise from time to time
- **social media assistants** for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.
- **web events assistants** for event planning, data and analytics, other web-related activities and moderating webinars
- a **traditional media manager** for newsletter, TV, radio, print (newspaper/magazine)
- an **HR director/volunteer coordinator**
- an **educational programs assistant**
- an **IT consultant**



Copyright (c) 2021
The National Kitten Coalition
All rights reserved

The National Kitten Coalition
7371 Atlas Walk Way #212
Gainesville, VA 20155

www.kittencoalition.org

[@nationalkitten](https://www.facebook.com/nationalkitten)

www.facebook.com/kittencoalition

www.instagram.com/national_kitten_coalition

info@kittencoalition.org

*Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list*