A photograph of three small kittens sitting on a blue and green striped blanket. The kitten on the left is a brown tabby with blue eyes. The middle kitten is a grey tabby with blue eyes. The kitten on the right is a brown tabby with blue eyes. A fourth, darker kitten is partially visible behind the others. The background is a blue surface.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2009
June 2009 to July 2010



ABOUT THE ANNEX CAT RESCUE

Our Goals

The plight of homeless cats in the Greater Toronto Area is a growing one in search of a compassionate solution. The Annex Cat Rescue is a 100% volunteer charity which deals with this sad problem in five ways:

- by humanely trapping homeless kittens and abandoned or stray adult cats for our foster and adoption program;
- by feeding and providing medical care for feral cats in designated colonies;
- by curbing population growth in those colonies through trapping, then spaying/neutering and vaccinating these cats;
- by educating the public on the compassionate treatment of homeless cats and responsible pet ownership;
- by improving urban environments through community cooperation.

Our Programs

Currently, ACR has about 150 volunteers, including foster homes, adoption screeners, colony feeders, feral-cat trappers, photographers, event organizers, fundraisers, craft-makers, drivers, administrators and financial officers. Every one of us is crucial to ACR's success.

We do not operate a shelter. All our cats are fostered in a network of volunteers' homes, preventing the behavioural problems that develop when cats are caged for long periods, as well as the spread of infectious disease. The foster home environment also makes it easier for our foster care providers to socialize nervous cats and to better understand their temperaments, to ensure that the cats are adopted into the most suitable homes. Through volunteers' home visits, prospective adopters can interact directly with our cats in a setting similar to their own homes. This is why ACR describes itself as "Cat Adoption with a Difference."

In over thirteen years since our founding, ACR has placed more than 2200 cats and kittens in screened, permanent, loving homes. Cats six months or older are spayed or neutered. All adopters of kittens must sign contracts agreeing to spay or neuter the kittens at the appropriate time.

"Feral" cats are the free-roaming, wild offspring of domestic cats that have been abandoned or lost. They may have been wild for several generations and tend to live in colonies in back alleys, parks, garages or wherever they can find shelter and food. The ACR believes that all cats deserve humane and compassionate care. Our volunteers continue to feed feral ACR cats in the colonies where we are spaying and neutering them. These volunteers also report colony cats with medical needs to our trappers for veterinary attention. The ACR has a strict no-kill policy and only euthanizes cats on purely compassionate grounds.

Since a female cat can have two or three litters each year, she can exponentially produce thousands of offspring in a short time, many of whom will perish through starvation, freezing, and attacks by humans and other predators. The ACR intervenes in this tragic cycle of suffering through our trap/spay/neuter-return program (TNR).

Thanks to our great volunteers and donors, we have been able to expand our TNR program and ACR now manages more colonies than last year. (Please see FERAL COLONY FEEDING AND “TNR” below.)

ACR’s funds are raised by our volunteers through donations, adoption fees, membership fees, and money raised by offering our handmade crafts for a kind donation. Our foster homes generously cover the cost of food, litter and toys for the cats that are in their care. Our volunteer feeders pay for almost all of the food they provide to ACR cat colonies. Occasionally, ACR gratefully receives donations of cat food from local clinics, retail stores and pet food companies. This food is disbursed throughout the feral feeding program and sometimes to foster homes.

Our History

The Annex Cat Rescue was founded in 1997 when a few residents of The Annex neighbourhood in downtown Toronto banded together to care for a local cat colony. Over the years, ACR’s service area, both for cats and volunteers, has spread to extend across the greater Toronto area.

In 1999, Canada Revenue Agency granted ACR charity status (charity registration #871653945 RR 0001). A Board of Directors was chosen and a philosophy was formalized through our constitution, by-laws and guidelines.

ACR has an official Privacy Policy, which is posted on our website, as well as an Owner’s Foster Agreement (to assist people who are looking for help in finding new homes for their pets). We also have a Bequest Fund for people who are interested in bequeathing money and their cats into ACR’s care, to use our volunteers’ skills for finding permanent and caring placements for their pets, if that becomes necessary. This will allow ACR to set up an endowment fund that will allow your pets to be cared for and to give ACR much-needed financial sustainability to continue our work for generations to come.

ACR tests cats for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) before placing them into our foster homes in response to adopters who have specifically asked to know the outcome of the results.

Our Future

As we complete our 13th year, the focus for ACR is to develop an ongoing strategy to continue our cat rescue work within Toronto communities and to stabilize future funding. The board has a detailed handbook summarizing information that new and current board members need in order to effectively carry out their trustee and management roles.

ACR Board of Directors, June 2009 - July 2010

- Shannon Falconer, Chair, 2nd year of her 1st term
- Gayle Gossen, Vice-Chair, 1st year of her 1st term
- Maxine Sidran, Treasurer, 2nd year of her 1st term
- Heather Brown, Secretary, appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy
- Carolyn Heathcote, Member-at-large, 1st year of her 1st term

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

The ACR Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank all of the amazing ACR volunteers who keep our group working so well. We are lucky to have so many smart and devoted volunteers, without whom we could never have rescued as many cats and kittens as we have, nor raised as much funding needed to care for them. Thank you all so much!

Help needed

Recovery Homes

ACR is still desperately short of recovery homes for our TNR program. All you need is a small, clean, quiet and secure room with a door, in which you will place the caged cat – such as a spare bedroom, den, a secondary bathroom (that can remain unused for a few days), basement room or a heated garage. The cats will need a calm, quiet, clean environment for their post-surgical recovery for 3-7 days, and will only need about twenty to thirty minutes of your time per day.

Foster Homes

Have you always thought about fostering cats or kittens, but were unsure how? Have you wanted to witness the “miracle of birth” or hold a tiny baby kitten? We are always in need of foster homes for cats and kittens, but during warmer weather, we’ll need even more foster home volunteers to host pregnant and nursing mom cats and young kittens. All you need is a small, quiet room in your home (even a small bathroom or spare bedroom will do), and our knowledgeable Foster Coordinators will guide you through the process.

Special Events Volunteers

Every year, ACR participates in a number of special events, such as street festivals and craft shows, to educate people about the plight of homeless cats in the Toronto area, to find homes for our rescued cats who are adoptable, to collect donations, and to sell our handmade crafts to help pay our vet bills. We’re always in search of positive, friendly people to staff our tables, in shifts of about two hours. This is a great way to get to know us as well as to help the kitties.

Transportation Volunteers

Do you have a CAR? ACR is always looking for volunteers to help transport foster cats, stray and feral cats to foster homes, recovery homes and veterinary clinics, as well as to transport supplies to special events & collect and distribute donated food. This is an ongoing position where you can volunteer for only those transports that you are available for.

Trapping Volunteers

If you have a CAR, we are also looking for Trapping Volunteers to help ACR’s TNR program. If you are interested in helping out but still a little unsure, our experienced volunteers will provide training in baiting and setting traps; transporting feral cats; gaining the cooperation of neighbours, along with all other elements of trapping.

If you would like to volunteer, or learn more about these volunteer opportunities, please email: volunteer@annexcatrescue.ca

ADOPTION STATISTICS

Year	Total		# Adopted By		Adopted	
	Adopted	Returned	Foster home	Other	Alone	In pairs (or multiples)
2009	84	3	6	78	50	34
2008	129	4	13	116	74	55
2007	152	4	16	136	75	77
2006	168	0	18	150	104	64
2005	160	1	22	138	96	64
Jul-Dec 2004	97					

The vast majority of ACR foster cats are healthy, rambunctious, affectionate souls, who only need a couple of weeks or months of foster care to polish their indoor manners and to receive their immunizations before they make their debut on our website.

Even when an adoption doesn't work out, which is very rare, ACR cats still have good outcomes because ACR will take back any cat if the adoption doesn't work out – once an ACR cat, always an ACR cat!

FERAL COLONY FEEDING AND “TNR”

After more than a decade of feral feeding, ACR's great team of volunteer feeders continues to grow. Although ACR began with a skeleton group of just two or three, there are now dozens of devoted volunteers who regularly feed and monitor six cat colonies to identify any health problems or injuries before they worsen. Volunteers routinely pay for the food they provide to the cats, and ACR occasionally receives cat food donations. **Can you donate?**

Through our TNR approach, our volunteers have stabilized the number of feral cats in most of the colonies that ACR manages. However, new cats - sometimes ravenous - continue to appear. Some were recently born to feral mothers; others are mature ferals who have discovered our feeding stations; still others are semi-feral cats, perhaps kept as mousers who have escaped from local shops; also in attendance are domestic cats who have become lost or have been abandoned by irresponsible owners. All of these new arrivals find comfort and relief at ACR feeding stations, some only briefly while awaiting placement in foster care, and others for a lifetime. This past year, ACR feeders distributed more than 3,000 kg of dry cat food to more than 50 needy cats, working for the cats every day despite the worst blizzards and the most oppressive heat and smog.

Bravo to these lifesaving volunteers!

CHINATOWN

The Chinatown colony feral feeders continued their great teamwork throughout the past year. Many of the feeders have been active in Chinatown for years, a few for more than a decade. In 2009, we welcomed several new feeders to the Chinatown team and gave our thanks to several long-standing feeders who retired from the route. As the years pass, the feeders find themselves saying their goodbyes to the cats, too. In 2009 and early 2010, we lost several cats to old age: The Candidate, Caesar and Baby, among them. Gone, too, is the “friendly black cat,” renowned for his sociability; in the first days of the new year, he died in a tragic accident. We miss all the cats and remember them fondly, but we also celebrate their mostly long, rich lives. Some have lived to be 14 – far beyond the life expectancy of 2 to 5 years for a feral cat.

With almost all of the cats on the route having been spay/neutered, kittens are now very scarce. Still, new challenges continue to present themselves. In 2009, a feeder came across a broken cat carrier in a desolate alley close to an ACR feeding station. Inside the carrier was an emaciated black cat crouched on a filthy blanket. Maddie, as she came to be known, was suffering from severe thyroid disease. Fortunately, she was well socialized and moved indoors into a supportive foster home, where, with love and ongoing treatment, she has nearly doubled her weight. Maddie has now been adopted into a wonderful forever home! More daunting is the challenge of treating feral cats with age-related degenerative conditions. Two ferals from a Chinatown colony were recently diagnosed with diseased teeth and gums, a condition not easily treatable in cats that resist confinement. ACR vets, board members, trappers and feeders continue to work together to find the best possible solutions for our older ferals, many of whom prefer life on the streets to a more pampered existence indoors.

New volunteers are always welcome. Right now, the greatest need is for occasional backup feeders.

We thank all of the Chinatown feeders for their dedication and enthusiasm. Special thanks to Sharon Kirsch for her outstanding work as Chinatown Coordinator for more than a decade!

KENSINGTON

This has been an active year in Kensington, for felines and humans alike. Thanks to the dedicated feeders and Coordinator, the cats along the Kensington route are being fed seven nights a week, and several new feeding spots have been added...

Last August, a feeder discovered that there were upwards of ten adult and four young cats living around the Atkinson Co-op, just metres away from other Kensington feeding spots. The Coordinator consulted the feeders and the decision was unanimous – add that spot to the route. Shortly thereafter, a volunteer from Project Pet Rescue showed the Coordinator another spot, also close to the regular route, with five adult cats – one pregnant and the rest unspayed/unneutered. Again, the feeders stepped up and these spots were added.

Early this past winter, we were notified of two more spots near a pre-existing Kensington feeding location, where there were numerous cats in need of food and TNR. In one case, a resident contacted ACR about some kittens, and in another, one of the feeders stumbled upon a spot. Although the Kensington route was already a long one with many cats, these new spots are now covered nightly,

thanks to some feeders who are doing double-duty. It may be necessary to split the route in two and recruit more volunteers.

Meredith is a long-time ACR cat, probably about eight years old, who was trapped and spayed several years ago after having had several litters of kittens. A true feral, there was no thought of keeping her indoors, so we have been looking after her ever since. Recently, Janine Denney-Lightfoot (who founded the Kensington route) noticed that Meredith had dropped a dramatic amount of weight and the trappers started trying to pick her up ... to no avail. She is one smart girl! After countless attempts, trappers Jeremy and Rondi finally succeeded in early February. Her mouth was infected, but after a long-acting dose of antibiotics and other medications, she was released and seems to be doing better.

Kensington feeders and trappers are doing a great job on the original route and at the new locations. Many thanks, everyone!

CHESTER

Last year, we told you about a lovely woman named Carolyn who contacted ACR about a feral colony she was feeding. Carolyn had taken in 2 kittens, intending to find them new adoptive homes, but they found the best forever home with Carolyn – who is now an ACR Board member. Happily, we lose many foster homes this way!

The Chester colony had grown to approximately 15 cats. A group of ACR volunteers and neighbours started trapping in late March 2008 and soon 9 cats had been spayed/neutered, 8 kittens were brought into ACR's foster program, and 3 cats were adopted by the colony's caregivers.

When last year's Annual Highlights report was written, there were only 3 Chester colony cats left to TNR. Although there were no new kittens born to the colony's cats, a stray female gave birth to her 4 kittens there. One of the 4 was taken into the foster program and adopted. ACR was also notified of another small group of cats just up the laneway from the Chester colony. Volunteers continue to feed and TNR the remaining cats in the Chester colony, plus the smaller group up the laneway.

It's 2010 and ACR has now spayed/neutered all of these cats! Our Volunteer Coordinator found more volunteer feeders and now all the cats are doing very well.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this ACR success story!

BATHURST-COLLEGE

Six volunteers feed the Bathurst-College colony cats once or twice each, every week. There have been some challenges this past year but also some happy endings and beginnings. The colony comprises 10 adult cats who have lived for the past few years in a vacant lot behind a laneway near Bathurst and College. Last fall, construction finally began on a group of stacked townhouses on the lot. Unfortunately, the cats lost their permanent home and scattered to various garages etc., along the laneway. We have had some challenges finding a good location for feeding, and have had to adapt as the laneway changes. The cats have had to put up with a lot of construction machinery and noise, and have had to find new places to feel safe. Our next challenge will be to determine if we need to move the feeding spot again once residents move into the laneway, probably by this summer.

On the bright side, with the expertise of ACR trappers, volunteers were able to trap and spay the last unspayed female cat in the group, who had kittens late last summer. Her two daughters, Becky and Juno, were trapped this past winter and, after spending a few weeks adjusting to living with one of our feeder volunteers, the kittens moved to their “forever home” and are now happily settled in with their new mom cat, Rona.

The majority of the cats had been spayed/neutered by ACR’s previous Colony Coordinator, who managed the colony for several years. There is one male tabby left in the colony to TNR, but he hasn’t been seen for some time so volunteers are watching for him. This past year, we took a total of 3 cats to the vet – the 2 kittens have been adopted and, after resting up, their mom is back with her colony.

Volunteers recently added a feeding station to the route, near Bathurst and Harbord, for 3 homeless cats living nearby.

Our Thursday night feeder recently rescued a stray cat that had been with the Bathurst-College colony for about three weeks. She is a very tame cat, with a collar and microchip, but when the vet’s office contacted the owner, the owner did not want her back. She is being cared for in the feeder’s home for now, but will soon move to her forever home with another volunteer feeder very soon – another successful adoption!

Bravo Bathurst-College volunteers!

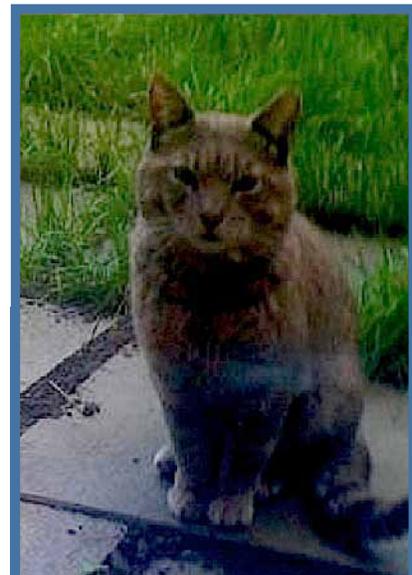
SOUTH RIVERDALE

Volunteers became involved with the South Riverdale colony with the help of a neighbourhood gentlemen who had a few cats but, unfortunately, he did not have them spayed/neutered. Of course, those few cats quickly became many cats!

Last year there were about 14 cats in the colony. Since then, volunteers were been able to find good adoptive homes for 3, before ACR became involved. Two more were adopted since ACR became involved. Another one of the cats has been placed in an ACR foster home.

Now there are about 9 “full-timers” out there, 2 of whom are spayed/neutered (which was done prior to ACR’s involvement) and the remaining 7 still need to be fixed. There are also 2 other cats who show up sporadically for feeding on the Coordinator’s property, though she’s not sure where they have come from!

Thanks to the Colony Coordinator, Vanessa Bonomo, and a couple of her neighbours, the cats are being fed every day. Many thanks to the South Riverdale volunteers!



One of the South Riverdale colony’s handsome fellows

BICKFORD - CHRISTIE

These great volunteers look after two feeding routes in the Bickford-Christie area.

There are currently 9 cats living in a long laneway between Harbord and College Street who are fed daily. The goal this year is to spay/neuter all of them. One of the cats is currently in long-term foster care because she has serious health issues, and won't be put back outside.

The second route is near Bloor and Ossington where a dozen cats are fed at various spots throughout the area. This year, 2 pregnant cats were brought indoors to have their kittens, and another litter was born outside. The Coordinator, Janine, recently took in two female cats and two injured males – one with a severe eye injury and the other with a bladder infection. The males have recovered and are doing well. Both males have been neutered and the females have been spayed.

There is also a feeding spot behind a grocery store on Christie Street, where a group of 8 cats are living, although the number seems to continuously change. The cats are quite wild and elusive, and they are hard to spot and keep track of. Another injured male from this group was taken in this year and received medical care for a large abscess on his face, and he has been neutered.

All of the tame strays from both routes have been taken in and the ferals are being fed daily.

Many thanks to all of these wonderful volunteers!

ONGOING FUNDRAISING

ACR's main sources of funding are from private donations from caring individuals, businesses and foundations, as well as special events organized by ACR volunteers. (Please see SPECIAL EVENTS, below.)

ACR also depends upon the regular "bread and butter" income that a network of ACR volunteers raise through coin donation boxes located year-round in vets' offices and businesses around the city.

Volunteers monitor 18 coin donation boxes, and at 8 of these locations we also offer our famous hand-made catnip toys and purr-pads "for a kind donation." One of the catnip toy baskets is located at the Karma Co-op and is monitored by our youngest volunteer, 7-year-old Ally. *Thank you, Ally!*

Many thanks to volunteer crafters Christine Demerchant, Linda Goldman and Cara Melbye. Christine recently added a new item to our line-up of cool hand-made crafts ... bath bombs! These are effervescent "bombs" that add a delightful fizz to your bath for a natural, relaxing soak.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Over the past year, ACR's Special Event volunteers held more successful fundraising events than ever! These events require a tremendous amount of planning and coordination, and many very reliable volunteers. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped break our record. Special thanks to our very special Special Events Coordinator, Rhiannon Ryder.

Events not only generate income needed to care for ACR's cats, but they also raise awareness of cat welfare issues and help us connect with new people who want to volunteer to help ACR rescue more cats.

Here is a list of the key events organized by ACR volunteers over the past year.

- August 8-9, 2009: PawsWay – a pet fair held regularly at the Harbourfront Centre. ACR's display board showcased our cat rescue work, and we offered our hand-made crafts in exchange for a kind donation. For the first time, volunteers brought some of the gorgeous kittens available for adoption (though our usual careful screening and adoption process was conducted after the event). September 11-13, 2009: Cabbagetown Festival – with ACR's display board and crafts. Many thanks to our host, the Menagerie Pet Shop.
- September 11-13, 2009: Vegetarian Food Fair – with ACR's display board and crafts, plus a raffle of a basket of lovely donated items. *(Note to fundraisers: By law, raffles require a licence from the City!)*
- October 3, 2009: St. Lawrence Market – with ACR's display board and crafts, plus another great raffle basket.
- November 22, 2009: Petcentric Yard Sale held at PawsWay – with ACR's display board, hand-made crafts and other items.
- December 5, 12 and 19, 2009: Artisan's Fair, a show and sale of hand-made Christmas crafts held annually at the Tranzac Club – again this year, ACR's table included our display board, hand-made crafts, and another great raffle basket.
- February 13, 2010: ACR participated in the PawsWay Volunteer Recruitment Event at Harbourfront, with our display board and crafts.
- February 13-14, 2010: Downsview Valentine's Adoptathon – with ACR's display board and crafts, plus cats – AND, after careful planning, the first cat was adopted through a special event!
- May 8, 2010: Family Friendly Craft Sale and Fundraiser, in The Annex neighbourhood where ACR was founded – with ACR's display board and hand-made crafts.

The Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who take time out of their busy lives to help organize and run these critically-important events. Your contributions are pivotal to the success of ACR's cat rescue work!

Speaking of thanks, Rhiannon organized ACR's first Volunteer Appreciation Party on January 29, 2010. Thank you, Rhiannon and all the volunteers who helped to make this such a great success.

We also want to express sincere thanks to Donna for arranging donations of several concert and sports event tickets – Alicia Keys, Nickelback, Carole King/James Taylor, Harlem Globetrotters, and Raptors vs. Memphis Grizzlies – and to Jillian for donating 5 spa tickets!

And thanks to Max, the grade 4 student who designed the card that Hawthorne Bilingual School gave to ACR's Treasurer, Maxine Sidran, to thank her for her inspiring talk about cat rescue. *Cool card, Max! (Thanks, Maxine!)*

THE ACR WEBSITE

Our website is our most effective tool for finding adopters, volunteers and donors. ACR's website was established by Raven H. Sun when ACR was founded. Always the devoted Webmaster, Raven has routinely maintained and updated the site ever since. Many thanks to Raven and Board Secretary Heather Brown, who have been updating the website's display of information and pictures of cats available for adoption... check it out!

http://www.annexcatrescue.ca/adoptions/available_pp_cats.shtml.

SPECIAL NEEDS – Gramps' Story



It was a bitterly cold December day when an ACR volunteer went to the east end to assess a cat affectionately called "Gramps." The concerned family who had contacted ACR reported that Gramps had been living on their property at least as long as they had lived there – eight years. He had spent many cold winters outdoors with a feral colony, but this winter, the family had concerns about his health.

When the ACR volunteer spotted Gramps, she saw right away that he had a severe neck wound. Gramps was rushed to a veterinary clinic and once indoors, two things became immediately apparent.

First, Gramps was unlike his feral companions in the colony from which he had been rescued. Far from feral, he was a gentle-hearted, sweet cat. And second, Gramps was very, very ill.

He had an open neck wound which was severely infected. His thick fur was so badly matted that it had to be shaved; what was left of his teeth were rotten; he had hookworms; and he had lost parts of his ears and nose to frostbite. Gramps is also anaemic and has tested positive for FIV.

Had ACR not rescued him, there is no question that Gramps would not have survived the winter and would have died alone outdoors.

But ACR did rescue him, and with surgery, antibiotics, fluids and painkillers, he improved daily. He had a terrible ear infection in both ears when he was brought in, which most likely caused his deafness.



We are delighted to report that Gramps is now doing quite well! His ears have been flushed twice and, although Gramps will probably always have ear issues, they no longer cause him any discomfort. He had to have a second minor surgery recently because some subcutaneous fluid was leaking from an old wound site, but it was not infected, it has healed well and it doesn't bother him at all anymore.



Gramps is becoming more and more brave every day in his loving foster mom's home. He now follows her around the room and comes to her for affection. He loves to be held and will happily stay in her warm lap for hours. He gives head butts when you stop stroking him and will nudge you on the nose to let you know he loves you. He even hopped into the lap of a visiting friend whom he had never met before. After all the horrors this big guy has endured, Gramps wants nothing more than love.

YAY, Gramps! BRAVO, ACR!

Every day, ACR volunteers work hard to help save cats like Gramps. The cost of caring for a cat like Gramps can be quite onerous for a small charity such as ours. If you'd like to help ACR care for Gramps and other cats in desperate need of our help, please consider donating to the [Kobi Memorial Medical Fund](#) c/o ACR.

MEET SOME OF OUR RESCUES

Z to A: Zoey and the Adorables!

Zoey was only a 10-month-old kitten herself when she and her three-week-old litter of five were placed in a cardboard box and abandoned in the middle of a cold September night on the doorstep of a downtown pet supply store. The following morning, store employees discovered the box and rushed to the aid of Zoey and her kittens, but scared by the sudden commotion, Zoey bolted.

The kittens were taken indoors and bottle fed while the store employees – including an ACR volunteer – waited anxiously and optimistically for Zoey to return for her kittens.



To the relief of all involved, less than 24 hours later, Zoey did return, and she and her kittens reunited and transferred into the care of an ACR foster home. It was immediately apparent that Zoey had given everything she had to her kittens, who were healthy and thrived in foster care.

When they were eight weeks old, Ezra, Liza, Kenzie, Suzie and Hazel were all adopted into loving forever homes. (Zoey's Adorables are shown on the cover of this report.) Unlike her kittens, however, Zoey was in bad shape. Her spine and pelvis jutted out beneath her long fur and despite the best efforts of ACR volunteers, her condition rapidly deteriorated to the point that she was refusing both dry and canned food, treats and even tuna.



Listless and lethargic, Zoey was rushed to the vet, where she spent an entire day subject to a battery of examinations, blood tests and xrays – all of which came back clear. Nevertheless, Zoey was quite ill. She was dehydrated, she had a high fever and she was just five pounds, less than half the weight that a cat of her size should be. The vet determined that Zoey was suffering from the effects of severe neglect and starvation.

Zoey was given intravenous fluids and prescribed an appetite stimulant, high-calorie canned food and Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR), along with continued TLC.

Indeed, that proved to be all that resilient Zoey needed. Over the next several months, Zoey grew healthier and stronger, fatter and fluffier and finally, after four months in ACR foster care, she was adopted into a committed forever home.

Recently, the doting adopters of Zoey – now Evie – sent ACR a glowing update on their beloved cat:

“We took Evie home on a snowy day in January, and she quickly claimed the place as her own! She was brought into her foster home very underweight, but after being put on the right track with a healthy diet and lots of attention from her foster parents, Evie has continued to grow into a beautiful and healthy cat. Friendly, gentle, and prone to long naps in the sun, she’s the kind of cat who enjoys a good belly rub. Evie has flourished here in her new home, becoming a loving pet and playful companion. We are thankful for her every day.”



*Zoey is now the lovely,
loved Evie!*

GALAXY'S ALL-STARS: So cute, they're out of this world!

Early last summer, a young man was jogging in North Toronto when he saw someone in a truck dump a mother cat and seven kitties on the railway tracks. Fearing they would fall prey to predators or starvation, he scooped them up in a cardboard box, then called ACR.

The beautiful mom cat, whom we named Galaxy, was in our care for less than forty-eight hours when she died of a uterine infection, leaving seven unweaned orphans.

Within a day, the four-week, underweight kitties – Moondust, Stardust, Sunbeam, Comet, Moonshine, MilkyWay and Eclipse – began to experience vomiting, diarrhea, high temperatures, dehydration and loss of appetite. Our vet suspected “panleukopenia” – distemper – with a kill rate of 95 per cent, regardless of treatment, even for otherwise healthy kittens twice their age.

A DNA test confirmed this deadly diagnosis. The sight of our vets dressed like space walkers in head-to-toe protective gear when handling Galaxy's kitties did not inspire optimism. Under the circumstances, their foster mom's insistence that, one by one, they seemed to be getting better was easy to dismiss as wishful thinking.

Yet, against the odds, all of Galaxy's kittens did survive! We'd like to think it had something to do with TLC.

Sadly, more tragedy awaited: Moondust – a sweet greyhaired girl – had been born without a tail, accompanied by internal deformities that made it hard for her to eliminate. No operation could save her. She died before the inevitable decision to euthanize had to be made.

Now, at last, it was blue skies for our cosmic kitties! Comet – a small, bright, fast-moving tabby was the first to be adopted, followed by Moonshine, a tabby-girl with glowing white paws and underbelly. Sunbeam – another high-energy tabby-girl – went off with her brother and best pal Stardust, a Russian Blue, who startled his adopters with his ability to leap up into their living-room rafters.



Moondust



Comet - Adopted!



Moonshine - Adopted!

That left MilkyWay, a very amiable boy with handsome “cow” markings, and his brother, tiny, black Eclipse. Because of the severity of Eclipse’s viral fever, he had a motor impairment, meaning his back legs didn’t always go where his front legs wanted to go, giving him an endearing flopsy-mopsy gait. Though all of Galaxy’s kitties were exceptionally friendly, little Eclipse was ‘way over the top on the purr scale.’ A family with two young boys fell in love with him and MilkyWay. As reported by their mom, even months later they couldn’t wait to get back from a vacation in order to see their feline pals, and, of course, Eclipse and MilkyWay greeted them at the door with friendly licks and purr-engines running!

When you invite kitties into your heart and home, you also invite in joy and sorrow, but that’s what love is all about, right?



MilkyWay - Adopted!



Sunbeam - Adopted!



Stardust - Adopted!



Eclipse - Adopted!

MEET ELEGANT ELLE!



Elle is a very cute black and white girl – a stray who'd had a litter of kittens when a kind man contacted ACR for help. The gentleman took Elle in, and ACR took in the kittens.

Then, the gentleman decided to leave Toronto and take Elle with him, but Greyhound wouldn't allow pets on board! He called ACR from the bus station and asked us to keep Elle until he was settled in his new town, and said he would call when he could arrange to get her. He never called.

But this story has a very happy outcome! Rhonda Worr volunteered to foster Elle. Rhonda describes Elle as an enchanting sweetheart who loves to be cradled in one's arms and carried around like a baby. She is a sweet and shy cat who nestles in any available lap.

Elle has been adopted to a kind and gentle couple in Toronto. Rhonda knows that this was the perfect adoption and Elle is now in the best possible home, but she still misses Elle very much. Elle's adopters report that she loves to look down the open staircase from the third floor and check out the comings and goings from that high perch in her forever home. She also loves to sit in the bay window and watch the birds and squirrels.

Another successful adoption for The Annex Cat Rescue – may there be many more!

CARLTON AND JARVIS – The intersection of kittens and ACR!

In August 2009, two tiny gray kittens were brought to the attention of ACR by a concerned business owner in the downtown core. A feral cat had chosen a shed behind his business in which to give birth to her kittens. Although he made a point of offering the mother cat regular access to food and clean water, the business owner hoped for a better life for the kittens.

When the kittens were eight weeks old, ACR volunteers transferred them from the alleyway into a foster home.



Dubbed Carlton and Jarvis for the intersection from which they came, the tiny gray kittens thrived in foster care. The little guys were treated for fleas and worms and each had a much-needed bath. Having already become accustomed to the company of the business owner, Carlton and Jarvis were quickly socialized and were soon adopted into loving forever homes.



Carlton- Adopted!



Jarvis - Adopted!

Every spring and summer (known as “kitten season” to cat rescue volunteers), ACR works closely with members of the community to facilitate happy endings for some of the thousands of kittens born outdoors into feral colonies. ACR extends a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to its volunteers, donors and community partners, who all work together to make stories like little Carlton’s and Jarvis’ a reality.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

	Year Ended December 31, 2009	Year Ended December 31, 2008
Revenues		
Adoption Fees	8,370	13,319
Donations	32,716	32,926
Fundraising	5,135	2,027
Interest	656	1,491
Membership Dues	400	340
Coin Boxes	7,101	6,205
Revenue Total	54,378	56,308
Operating Expenses		
Advertising Expense	609	680
Bank Charges	18	107
Supplies Expenses	4,930	5,754
Fundraising Expense	1,482	729
Administration	614	597
Miscellaneous	2,150	2,172
Transportation Expense	275	479
Veterinary Services	33,468	45,716
Operating Totals	43,546	56,234
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	10,832	74
Opening Surplus (Deficit)	47,856	47,782
Ending Surplus (Deficit)	58,688	47,856

* For the year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2008.