

# B. O. O. News

## Butler and Oswald's Opinionated News

BLACK AND ORANGE CAT FOUNDATION  
WWW.BANDOCATS.ORG

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### WHY PETS DON'T MAKE GOOD HOLIDAY GIFTS

While a cute puppy or a fuzzy kitten might seem like the perfect present for that someone special on your gift list, think carefully before impulsively taking a pet home to put under the tree.

A pet, in most cases, as my husband, Joe, likes to tell people, is a twenty year commitment. Does the recipient of Fluffy or Fido have twenty years that they want to devote to taking walks, cleaning litter boxes, and making vet appointments? Is this tiny bundle of energy the right fit for the person or family? Do they have the financial means to buy food and pay for medical emergencies and yearly examinations?

The holiday season is also a stressful time to introduce a new family member into your home—and that is what a pet is—a new family member who will share your life for years to come. People



Butler is forced to wear a Christmas tree hat to look festive for the holidays.

are busy during the holidays, rushing here and there, trying to get everything done. A new pet can be just one more added and often unwanted

stress.

And what happens if a pet wasn't really what Aunt Emma wanted? Unlike a sweater or a fruit cake, a dog or a cat is a living, breathing creature that cannot go in the return pile to be discounted after the holidays. Rather, those unwanted animals often end up in shelters or even abandoned after the tree and tinsel are taken to the curb for trash pick up.

Instead of getting the pet, give a gift certificate to your local humane society; buy a collar; build excitement for the new pet. Then go with the person and help them adopt after the holiday rush ends.

### HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS WITH "SANTA CLAWS"

Bring your pet to PetSmart on Sawmill Road on Sunday, December 3 from 11-4 pm to have their photo taken with "Santa Claws."

Photo Packages are \$9.95 (\$8.95 if you have a PetSmart PetPerks card) and

include your choice of two different photo frames and two Polaroid pictures of your pet with Santa. Five dollars from the sale of each photo package will go directly to B and O to help us spay and neuter more area kitties.

While we toyed with the idea of having Joe Craft or Chuck Gaul dress as Santa for the day, Tom Heineman was kind enough to be our Jolly old elf for the afternoon.

Please stop and visit us with your pets!!!

## CRAGER BROTHERS TRUCKING: A TRAPPING SUCCESS

Each morning before the employees at Crager Brothers Trucking fire up their trucks, they walk around to the hoods and start beating on the metal. They make a lot of noise long before they turn on the engines. That precaution, John Crager says, is to make sure there aren't any cats sleeping inside.

The Crager Brothers love their cats and they don't want them to be harmed by

the large machinery that the cats often call home. Some of the cats live in the building where the trucks are housed; others stay in the remnants of discarded trucks. All know when to get out of the way.

"We started out with one cat to help keep the mice away, but it quickly got out of control. I had old timers telling me to just get a gun and shoot the cats. But I

couldn't do that. I don't want to kill them; I just want to control their numbers," John Crager said.

Trap-Neuter-Return is helping do just that. So far between 7 to 8 cats have been trapped, sterilized, and vaccinated. John and his brother, Dave, have even been nice enough to buy us traps and a whole case of tuna. No wonder those cats love these generous fellows.



The savvy calicos at Crager Brothers Trucking know to stay out of the way of the trucks.

*"The cat of the slums and alleys, starved, outcast, harried... still displays the self-reliant watchfulness which man has never taught it to lay aside."*

**Saki**

## KEEPING FERAL CATS WARM IN THE WINTER

It is important, of course, to make sure that your feral cats have plenty of food and water available during the cold days of winter. It is also important to provide them with some type of shelter from the elements. Two groups, working to help feral cats, offer simple plans for wooden cat shelters. Alley Cat Allies, the premier feral cat group, provides infor-

mation on building a cat house on their web site, [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org). They also list great ideas for keeping water from freezing during the winter.

A local group here in our area, Cat Assistance Team of Central Ohio (CATco), also provides simple cat shelter plans on their web site, [www.catteam.org/feral.html](http://www.catteam.org/feral.html)

They also supply information on making a low-cost shelter out of plastic storage bins.

You can also visit [www.spayandstay.org/wintershelter.htm](http://www.spayandstay.org/wintershelter.htm) to get ideas for a shelter for your outside cats. And if you don't have internet access and would like more information, please call and we can send you paper copies.

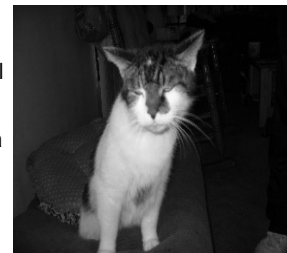
## ROMEO, ROMEO, WHERE FORE ART THOU ROMEO? I'M IN MY NEW HOME.

Romeo was found as a stray, living outside at a local trailer park by cat lover, Lori Lopez. While that might not seem strange, it was strange to discover that poor Romeo was defenseless outside—Romeo, as his name implies, was a lover, not a fighter, and he didn't even have any

claws to fight with. That's right, Romeo was four paw declawed and had been dumped outside to fend for himself. Without any claws for protection or even to help him climb a fence or a tree to escape attack, poor Romeo was in a predicament. Luckily Lori gave him a safe haven

in her home.

And now Romeo will never have to worry again. He was recently adopted by a wonderful lady in Springfield who promises to keep her lover boy safe. Her parents even call Romeo their grandson!!



Romeo is a lover, not a fighter—and it's a good thing, because he doesn't have claws!!

**BUTLER'S BLESSINGS: TREE CLIMBING 101**  
 (OR HOW TO DESTROY A CHRISTMAS TREE IN UNDER  
 TEN SECONDS)



**Butler, the angel at the top of our Christmas Tree.**

My first Christmas, I could hardly be-

lieve my eyes when my humans came carrying a giant tree right into our front room. Of course, I immediately had to go sniff around and boy did that tree smell good. I was only a kitten, but I knew what that tree was there for. My humans had bought me my very own giant scratching post. I climbed right to the top. Those prickly pine needles didn't stop me.

At first my humans laughed at my antics and I knew I was a star. But then they started messing up my

tree by putting weird colored objects on it. Ah, ha, I thought, more things for me to play with. But my grandma, Berta, was not amused when I batted the objects and sent them crashing to the floor. She even put on her "I'm not happy" face when I got so excited in my new tree that I knocked it over!!!

The next year, Berta said, "No more live trees." So they bought a fake tree and it was even easier to climb—not as many prickles. I love these human traditions!! Blessings, Butler Kitten

**GIFTS FOR CATS - WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER WRAP A BOX OF CATNIP**

I used to save my allowance and purchase small gifts for my feline friends. At Christmas, it was especially important to have something for them under the Christmas tree. I always wrapped their presents just like I did the ones for Mom and Dad and Bobbie.

One year, I pur-

chased a small box of catnip for my cat, Aslan (yes, I was a Narnia lover and thought my cat should be named for the famed Lion in my childhood books).

After carefully wrapping the box with Santa paper and placing it under the tree, I was disheartened the next morning to discover the pack-

age ripped to shreds.

"Who opened Aslan's present?" I frantically asked. The paper and cardboard were wet; the catnip missing.

And then I saw Aslan, stretched out on the floor, wrapping paper in a circle around him, catnip in his fur. I knew he'd enjoyed his present very much indeed.



*"Any conditioned cat-hater can be won over by any cat who chooses to make the effort."*

*Paul Corey*

**REMEMBERING PUMPKIN**

Pumpkin was the pharmacy cat. He was always out back, either waiting patiently under the dumpster or poised beside the shed for his next meal. A big orange cat, more buff colored than true "pumpkin" shade, he must have once belonged to someone. He was neutered and just a bit shy, warming up slowly to allow a

quick rub down the back. We had been feeding him for almost two years and he seemed to have no home except the parking lot.

Then one day, Pumpkin was not there. It was then that we discovered his secret life. He had friends everywhere—Ron at the food pantry fed him tuna; the Smuckers put food

out for him; he lived under the house with the stained glass windows.

Pumpkin was killed as he crossed the road to come for his dinner; a danger all outside cats face. We miss Pumpkin, our pharmacy cat.



*"Good-bye to Pumpkin, whose friends also knew him as Walter. We miss your presence at the pharmacy, greeting us as we came in each day and left each night."*

SEE OUR ADOPTABLE  
CATS AND KITTENS AT  
[WWW.BANDOCATS.ORG](http://WWW.BANDOCATS.ORG)



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## HOLIDAY DONATION FORM

If you would like to make a donation as a gift for someone this holiday season, please send us the person's name and address and we will send them a card telling them that a donation has been made in their name, a copy of our newsletter, and if they have a pet (either dog or cat), a gift for their furry friend valued at \$10—a holiday bandana for dogs or a pillow that can be filled with catnip for cats. Or if you would just like to make a donation, send your name and address to:

Black and Orange Cat Foundation, P.O. Box 126, Plain City, OH, 43064

Person Donation is being made in honor of:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dog or Cat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to make a donation, but do not want a holiday package mailed to anyone. My name and address: \_\_\_\_\_