

# B. O. O. News

## Butler and Oswald's Opinionated News

B L A C K A N D O R A N G E C A T F O U N D A T I O N

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### WHERE DID WE GET OUR NAME?

Black and Orange Cat Foundation (or "B and O") is named for two very special and spoiled cats, Butler and Oswald. Butler, the "B" in "B and O" is the black cat in the group, while Oswald, the "O" in "B and O" is our orange feline. Although, we are especially fond of our black and orange kitties (and, yes, we love those black and orange tortie mixes, too), we do not just help cats of those colors. We help all cats in need, no matter their shading.

Both Butler and Oswald were adopted from the Union County Humane Society in Marysville, Ohio. Butler stole our hearts, when, after being released from his cage,

he ran up his new mom's arm and perched atop her shoulder.

Oswald, on the other hand, got our attention by



Butler and Oswald, the black and orange "spokes cats" for B and O

screaming his head off until we finally came over and opened his cage door. Whereupon, there was no putting him back inside without suffering permanent hearing loss.

While these two mongrels were adopted from our local shelter, the rest of the cats who have padded into our lives have come looking for us.

Stray and abandoned, often very ill or injured, these cats led us to the idea of starting an organization in the Plain City area to spay and neuter feral and stray cats in order to decrease the overpopulation problem and help cats who have no other angels looking out for them.

We are pretty sure Butler and Oswald long for the good old days when they were the only cats in our lives. But they have to feel good knowing that because of them, other cats have been saved.

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### TRAP - NEUTER - RETURN

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a relatively new movement that is slowly replacing the old method of dealing with feral or wild cats. What was the old method? Euthanasia.

Feral cats, because they are unadoptable, used to

be rounded up, taken to shelters, and then killed. But once those cats were gone, more came to fill their place—a process known as the "vacuum effect." With TNR, feral cats are caught in humane traps, taken to a vet to be sterilized and vaccinated, and then re-

turned to the same place where they were originally trapped. This stops the cycle of unwanted kittens and also eliminates behaviors people dislike such as marking, fighting, and yowling when in heat. **Remember: Cats Nap. Only Humans Put them to Sleep.**

## SENIORS AND CATS: COMMUNITIES LIVING IN HARMONY

B and O has just started a project working in Pleasant Valley Gardens and Colony to trap the stray and feral cats that often visit the Senior Center searching for food. Initial letters were sent out to residents and we are planning to host a dinner at the Bickham Center for anyone interested in learning about Trap-Neuter-Return. We want the seniors to be well informed about what is going

on in their community.

We want this project to benefit not only the cats and the cat lovers at Pleasant Valley, but also those people who do not like the cats because of many of their behaviors. Once the cats are fixed and those behaviors are eliminated, hopefully the cats will not be such unwelcome visitors. We want this to be a program that unifies the community and

allows everyone, cats and humans, to live in harmony.



At Pleasant Valley Colony and Gardens, TNR will help cats and seniors live together.

## TIPS FOR TRAPPING: SOON YOU, TOO, CAN BE A MASTER TRAPPER

*"I love cats because I enjoy my home; little by little, they become its visible soul."*

*Jean Cocteau*

Before you begin trapping, it is important to get the cats on a feeding schedule—this will let you know when to expect them each day and makes trapping much easier. Once that is accomplished, you can set your trap.

Since cats do not like the feel of the metal wire in the traps on their feet, put newspaper down in the bot-

tom of the trap. Dribble a trail of tuna or some other yummy treat down the length of the trap. Leave more at the back to entice them further in so they will step on the plate to close the door behind them.

I always cover traps with a towel or sheet—cats are known for going into small, dark spaces. Curiosity trapped the cat!!! Hunger did,

too. Make sure you don't feed the day before trapping.

Once you've trapped the cat, put the trap in a warm, dry area where the cat will be safe for the night. Don't leave traps out overnight—you will catch other wildlife. Cats will go a bit berserk when they first realize they are trapped. Don't get upset if they bang around.

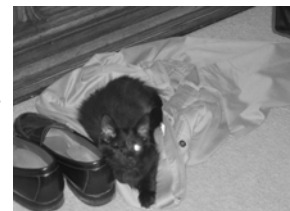
## SUCCESS STORY: SHILOH THE ONE-EYED WONDER

Shiloh was living in a trailer park when his mother cat dropped him on a lady's porch with his sibling, who was very ill. Sadly, Shiloh's litter mate did not live, but Shiloh did. He had a severe eye infection, however, and after it became clear that his eye was not going to heal,

the vet decided to remove it.

Don't feel sorry for Shiloh, though. Having one eye hasn't slowed him down a bit. In fact, he doesn't seem to know that there is anything about him that is different from other cats. He runs and jumps and plays

and steals food from cats over three times his size. Shiloh proves that having a disability is no reason to ever stop enjoying each day. We are so glad this little guy only lost an eye and not his life. Shiloh plans to be a pirate for Halloween this year. Look out Johnny Depp.



Ahoy, matey—Shiloh, the one-eyed kitten poses for the camera.

**BUTLER'S BLESSINGS: WHY BLACK CATS GET A BAD RAP**



**Butler, the Angel Cat—And, yes, those wings are real.**

As a black cat, I hate Halloween. Eve-

ryone associates black cats with witches and being evil. In fact, it is unlikely that you can find a completely black cat today—most of us have a bit of white somewhere in our coat. That white was called the “angel’s mark” or “God’s finger” in ancient times when witches were burnt at the stake. Completely black cats were also thrown into large fires and killed because they, like the women who took care of them and were considered witches, were also thought to be unholy. Those

cats that had the white “angel’s mark,” however, were spared. And so today, very few entirely black cats exist.

I have the “angel’s mark.”

Sadly, black cats are the least adopted cats, because the stigma surrounding them still exists.

I want everyone to know that all cats, no matter their color, are angels, not demons. Just look for our wings. Blessings, Butler Kitten

**U P C O M I N G E V E N T S**

We are currently working on fundraising ideas for the upcoming year. We are planning to host a “Tail gate” party for all those OSU fans to cheer on the Buckeyes and make a few “bucks” for kitties in need. There will be food and a cash bar, as well as a big screen television. We are hoping to do this for an away game, so you won’t actually miss out on

the thrill of being at the stadium when the Bucks hit the Horseshoe. Look for info on this soon.

Everyone loves a good deal and a good deal is even better if you know your money is going to help kitties in need. Watch for our upcoming “Fall Bazaar” to be held either at the end of October or

the beginning of November. Like a giant garage sale, the Bazaar will allow you to find a little bit of treasure for just a few pennies.

If you have a unique fundraising idea that we could use to raise money to spay and neuter more kitties, please let us know.

*“A black cat  
dropped  
soundlessly from a  
high wall, like a  
spoonful of dark  
treacle, and melted  
under the gate.”*

*Elizabeth Lemarchand*

**B E A V O L U N T E E R A N G E L**

I first began volunteering with the Union County Humane Society because Oswald and Butler were adopted from there—I wanted to thank the shelter for the gift of two special cats.

A few years ago, I began taking the stray cats around my home in to be fixed. That led to my volunteer work

with CATco—Cat Assistance Team of Central Ohio—where I helped with a large TNR project in Suburbans Trailer Park. We spayed and neutered almost 100 cats over several months. Because of that B and O was formed.

B and O is run entirely by volunteers. We can always use more angels to

assist us as we grow. If you would like to help trap, foster a homeless kitten, or even just drive kitties to vet appointments, please contact B and O. The Cats need us.



*“How we behave toward cats here below determines our status in heaven.”*

**Robert A. Heinlein**

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



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# DONATION FORM

Your donation can help spay and neuter stray and feral cats. Please tear off this sheet and mail to:  
Black and Orange Cat Foundation, P.O. Box 126, Plain City, OH, 43064

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ The Allison Fund—Donations to this fund help provide medical care for injured or ill cats.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most Needed—We appreciate your donation in any amount to help us with our efforts to control the cat overpopulation problem in the Plain City area.

If you are interested in volunteer or foster opportunities with B and O, please check below:

Foster \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer (in any way needed) \_\_\_\_\_