



The Blue Dot - A FieldHaven Miracle Story

By Joy Smith

The Blue Dot at 12 o'clock. Sounds like it should be part of a nursery rhyme.

In the world of shelters and veterinarians the Blue Dot at 12 o'clock means a negative result on the Feline Leukemia blood test. Many a sigh of relief is heard over the Blue Dot at 12 o'clock because it means a sick cat or kitten doesn't have the dread disease and a healthy-looking one does not have Feline Leukemia lurking about, ready to attack the feline immune system.



Miracle Kitten Tavick In plays in the grass "forest".

The Blue Dot at 3 o'clock is a heart breaker.

The Blue Dot at 3 o'clock means the cat is positive for the Feline Leukemia (FeLV). Cats and kittens stricken with FeLV have a very high mortality rate. Especially kittens.

There is a slight chance that cats or kittens with a positive FeLV blood test may fight off the virus. It's not common but it does happen. If you remember my beloved Louise. She was FeLV+ when she was a kitten but she was one of the lucky ones who fought off the disease.

Kittens that are positive for FeLV may look and act very healthy but their prognosis for either fighting off the virus or for living a very long life is pretty dismal. It is a common practice for shelters to euthanize cats and kittens that test positive.

Usually when FieldHaven accepts cats or kittens from other shelters they are tested before the transfer takes place. Occasionally we don't have the time to make sure the test is completed. In late May, 7 feline lives were on the line.

FieldHaven received a call from one of our shelter partners, Placer County Animal Services. They had 7 very young kittens that were slated for euthanasia at noon if a rescue group did not step up for them. FieldHaven sprung into action.

Here's where the first part of the miracle in this story starts. FieldHaven received a call from one of our shelter partners, Placer County Animal Services on a Friday morning. They had 7 very young kittens that were slated for euthanasia at noon if a rescue group did not step up for them. FieldHaven was the last resort. FieldHaven sprung into action and a volunteer picked up the 7 kittens. Through the urgency of the rescue, 3 4-week old kittens that were transferred did not get tested.

That oversight ended up saving 3 little lives.

When we did our intake we blood tested each kitten. The first 4 kittens, slightly older and larger than the last 3 tested negative. For the final 3, the disheartening result was a Blue



Miracle Kitten playing with Tamra the hound.

Classics Cats and Cabernet was a huge success! Thank You!



Contact Info and Hours

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Dot at 3 o'clock for each kitten. And, as if to emphasize the result it was a very strong positive.

Our first reaction was that we should euthanize the kittens. After all, they were extremely young and their outlook for a living even a few more weeks was not good.

The four of us looked at each other with tears and one offered to take the kittens to their sad fate. But then we looked at them. The image of those 3 tiny lives tumbling about as they played with each other is frozen in my mind. In the next moment, as if we were all of one mind, we made the decision to give these beautiful little creatures as much love as we could for as long as they remained happy and well.

We set up a place for them in our Isolation Room and volunteers were encouraged to take them out to play in the grass and sunshine.

We hoped for a foster home for the triplets but it's understandable that someone wouldn't want to take them home knowing they probably wouldn't live long. It takes a special person to provide "hospice" care for kittens.

A foster home turned up in the unlikeliest of people. My sister Jann had recently lost her beloved Roontay to liver cancer and she was taking the loss hard. When I heard she wanted to foster the kittens, I admit I was very against it. How could she take on these little heartbreakers when she was already deep in grief?

As Jann setup a kitten's dream room filled with climbers and every toy a kitty has ever wished for, the kittens were showered with love by Jann and other volunteers. As they grew they started playing in the flower gardens by the barn. To them it was deep dark forest and they spent hours playing hide and seek amongst the bushes and flowers. Happy and

healthy kittens! They grew and grew, never had so much as a snuffle. Who would know that a killer disease lurked in the blood of each of them.

But we've seen this before. The kittens act healthy and we think this is the time they fight off the disease. And it does happen, but I have never seen it happen with kittens who reacted so strongly to the test. They are the ones that are persistently positive and then one day they become sick.....

We didn't want to do another test because we didn't want to be saddened by the reality of another positive test.

But in early August we knew it was time.

I was driving on my way to the mountains when I got a call from FieldHaven.

It was a Blue Dot at 12 o'clock!!!!

Miracles like this for Dannigan, Tavic and Zuma are made possible by all of our volunteers, supporters and donors. Because it is with all of your help we are able to share this story of a FieldHaven Miracle. Thanks to all of youand to Jann for believing.



The miracle kittens Dannigan, Tavic and Zuma—made possible by all of you and your generous support.

Extreme Makeover - Feline Edition



FieldHaven gives kitties their best opportunity for health and a forever adoptive home. Your generous contributions allow us to take in these sad cases that would surely not have a chance at another shelter.

Feel free to earmark your contributions for our "Extreme Makeover Fund".

Biscuit—Before and after his extreme makeover



Tiny—As rescued and after lots of TLC

Third Annual Classics Cats and Cabernet Was Pure Magic!

They say that the third time is a charm – well that is a perfect way to describe our 3rd Annual Classics, Cats & Cabernet. The generosity of this community, the energy of our amazing volunteers and the faith and support of the vendors all came together in one amazing day.

We took a giant leap forward toward our goal of paying off the remaining cost of our new shelter by raising more than \$36,000! We certainly could not have done it without the efforts of so many FieldHaven volunteers.

The new building was the star of this year's show – nearly outshining the glossy finish of all those classic cars and breathtaking boats!

In addition, there was great food from a multitude of vendors, 2 bands, wonderful silent auction items, and a rousing live auction made even more fun by the presence of the Fabulous Felines and hilarious auctioneers.

Lincoln has faced more than its share of hardships in recent years but having a place like FieldHaven where the values that built this community are on display every day is a source of pride and a reason for optimism.

Pictures Clockwise From Top:

“Fabulous Felines” with Dr. Kate Hurley, UCD Koret Shelter Medicine Program.

Entertainment was enjoyed by all

Teams of volunteers helped with all parts of the celebrations.

New shelter and silent auction items.

Just a few of the beautiful classic cars on display.



Letter from the President

Your shelter at FieldHaven is complete!



Yes, this shelter first and foremost belongs to the cats but it is because of your help that we were able to build it. Every dollar you contributed, every hour of your time you spent, every email you sent to friends and family encouraging them to support the new shelter, every person you talked to in line at the grocery store about FieldHaven,

every kitty bed you made to donate to keep the kitties comfortable – yes, ALL of this has added up in the past 3+ years to what we have today. Aren't you proud? You should be!

Dr. Kate Hurley and her team at UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine calls FieldHaven “The Best Little Cat House [Shelter] in the West”. At our grand opening in June Dr. Hurley stated that she has visited and consulted with over 500 shelters worldwide and FieldHaven is the first to build a shelter with the cats best health and comfort in mind. Now, there's something for you to be proud of!

We've already seen huge benefits of our new shelter with cats that are more comfortable and at ease in their temporary home. And, less illnesses. Since opening the new shelter in April we've seen a lower rate of URI (Upper Respiratory Infections) and other diseases that are prevalent in shelters where cats are crowded and stressed. This leads to a shorter stay at FieldHaven until the cat gets adopted and ultimately means we can save more cats when space opens up with an adoption.

Outside the shelter walls, our fantastic Fosters care for two-thirds of our population, primarily kittens. With the workflow design of the new shelter we are more efficient in taking care of the medical needs of foster kittens. Again, the result is less disease and faster adoptions.

If you haven't been to your shelter yet please do come visit soon. We are anxious to show you what we've accomplished with your support!

Purrs and Kitty Kisses,

Happy Endings



Mocha Man—An exceptionally handsome senior gentleman rescued from a high kill shelter—is enjoying a new forever home thanks to the efforts of FieldHaven Volunteers.



Parker was found abandoned and very sick.

FieldHaven volunteer and foster

mom Scout nursed him back to health and could not bear to give up this sweet guy. He now enjoys every luxury in his forever home.

Upcoming Events -

Pet Expo

Sat. and Sun. Oct. 22 and 23
Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville

PetSmart Lincoln Adoptions

920 Groveland Lane, Lincoln
Adoption Center open during regular store hours - Volunteers on site Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 12-4

Petco Rocklin Adoptions

96672 Lonetree Blvd.
Saturday and Sunday 12-4

PetSmart Roseville Adoptions

10363 Fairway Drive
Saturday and Sunday 12-5