

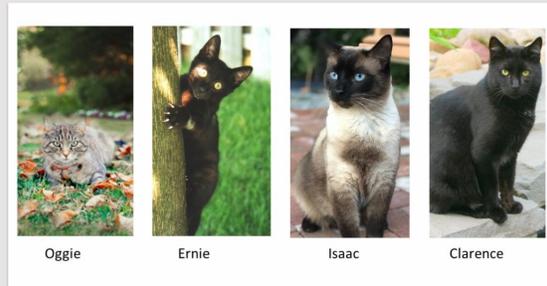
FALL 2023 Newsletter

FELINE EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE, AND EXCELLENCE IN PITTSBURGH, PA

THE NEW MURALS AT THE CAT CLINIC AND HOSPITAL



The new artwork on the East side of the Cat Clinic and Hospital



The original photos that inspired the project

Earlier this year, the building that stood in between the Cat Clinic and Hospital and the Bloomfield Post Office was demolished, exposing the East wall of our building. Prior to this demo the buildings were right on top of each other, not leaving enough room for painting. When our building was painted in the past, that side was left untouched. So now we have an entire wall to display our love for cats! All four of these panels are oil paintings on canvas, mounted on wood, and taken from photographs of the Bebko cats.

Oggie, the 'co-founder' of the Cat Clinic and Hospital, is on the bottom left. Oggie was found on the corner of Ogontz and Olney, in Philadelphia while Dr. Bebko was attending University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School. In the 1970's, cats were given second class pet status, both in research and most veterinary practices....'just a cat,' was how people would think of them. Very little was known and understood about feline medicine and surgery, with few people interested in furthering this field. Then along came Oggie....and along came the Feline Leukemia Virus. The Leukemia Virus in the 1970's was a death sentence for a cat. It wasn't until 1972 that a blood test could definitively diagnose this deadly virus. The Leukemia Virus causes immunosuppression and infections that is certain to shorten an infected cats lifespan. Because management of the complications of the virus were an important part of the supportive care for infected cats, and with no where else to turn, there was no other choice than to build a facility to care for cats. And that was the beginning of the of the Cat Clinic

and Hospital in Pittsburgh in 1979. One of the first in the US. Unfortunately, after a 9 year battle with the effects of the leukemia virus, Oggie crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, but we can still feel her spirit every day at the Cat Clinic and Hospital.

Clarence is on the bottom right. Clarence was adopted from a rescue in Waimanalo, Oahu. In the spring of 2006, during some of the heaviest rainfall, a reservoir breached and caused flooding downstream that completely inundated the rescue. Most of the dogs perished, and the remaining cats survived by clinging to a chain link fence for hours. Dr. Bebko's daughters rescued two of the cats, and while they were looking for the most infirmed/elderly ones, Clarence the kitten kept on climbing up their legs....and so he was rescued, also. A fierce protector, loving companion until he passed away all to young from a brain tumor at 10 years of age.

Ernie, top left, was literally drop kicked out of a country home in Fredonia, PA as a tiny kitten....and rescued again by Dr. Bebko's daughters, who witnessed the cruelty. He was snatched up and driven home, and through many weeks of AVETS and home veterinary care, he was a survival miracle. Ernie eventually grew into a strapping 18 pound 'baby,' who quickly became the pampered focal point of everyone's attention. Ernie passed over the Rainbow Bridge at 15 years.

And on the upper right is Isaac, aka Sphinx, who is the only living member of the four. He was just a tiny little white kitten on a busy street who has grown into an 18 pound, 'Siamese' looking heavy weight. Bossy, with a streak of insecurity, looking to do cuddles every time you look at him.

Looking for a gift for someone with a cat?

The Cat Clinic and Hospital is now offering Gift Certificates for gift giving occasions. What better gift for a cat owner than a certificate to help with veterinary care for their cat? Any denomination from \$10 and up is available at our front desk.



Since 1979, we have cared for tens of thousands of Pittsburgh cats and kittens, and we bring our passion for felines to work with us. After 44 years, you know what we love. Every cat is treated like they are our own, and every human companion is treated with kindness and respect. A feline only practice is the truly fear free environment for cats!

Call for an appointment....we always make time to see our patients in need!

412-681-1122



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