

News from Best Friends

TLC CAT CLUB

...Where you're going to fall in love!

by Michael Mountain

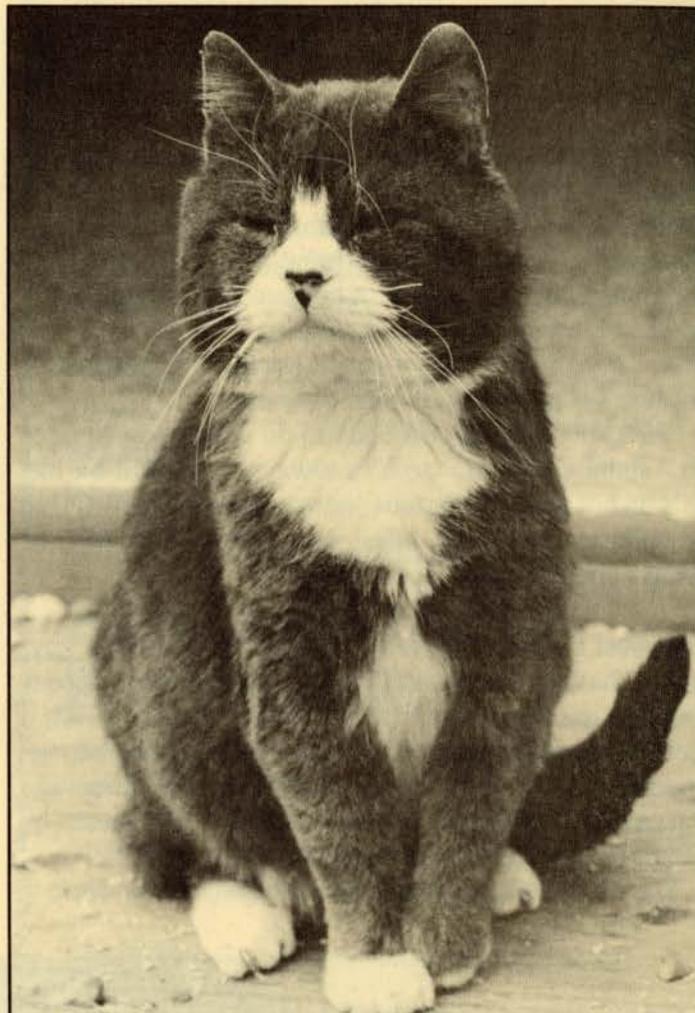
"I'm not sure I want to go in there," says our visitor, reaching for a Kleenex—just in case.

"Don't worry," I answer, opening the outside door to the Best Friends **TLC Club**. "You're not going to be upset. You're going to fall in love!"

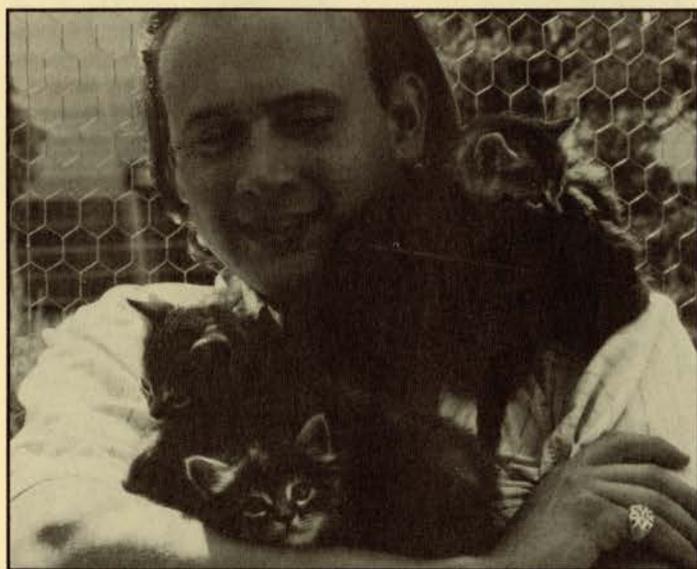
I open the inner door when I'm sure she's shut the outer door. "Why do you need so many doors if they can't walk properly?" she asks.

At that moment a black and white kitty streaks past us. "That's Blackjack," I say nonchalantly.

She stares at Blackjack racing down the passageway on three legs. "What happened to him?"



Benton's a real character. He got hit by a car trying to find his owners after they moved. His left foot doesn't work, but his personality sure makes up for it!



These little orphan kitties were just found under a wood pile. After some good TLC they'll get spayed and neutered and can go off to good new homes.

"He came here a year ago, after he was hit by a car. One leg had gone very bad and had to be amputated. But he seems to have discovered that he's still got one more leg than people do. He's a real show-off!"

The kitten season. Judah, our cattery manager, joins us as I lead our visitor through the Maternity Ward, where newly-arrived mother cats and their kittens get special care. Six beautiful six-week-old bug-eyed tabby kittens are all piled up on each other at the back of one enclosure. "They just came in today," says Judah. "They were found abandoned under a wood pile in a nearby town." It's mid-April, and we're right in the middle of the puppy and kitten season. "They're not too sure about people yet," he says.

A flying leap. Now we're in the day room of the TLC Club. Oops! I forgot to warn her about Tong, who's taken a flying leap from a shelf and landed on her shoulder.

Tong doesn't have a tongue. We don't know how he got like that. But his only real problem is that he can't groom himself, and has to be carefully combed each day.

After the shock of first encounter, Tong and his new friend have fallen in love, and Tong can chalk up another conquest!

"He always ends up where the treats are." Our visitor has forgotten about the Kleenex by now, and is having an encounter with Benton, who's got a club foot. Meanwhile, I'm saying Hi to Spindles, who was seriously crippled but now has one of his back legs working after nerve surgery. And Judah is stroking Timmy who came from Los Angeles with a general neurological problem because his mother had feline distemper.

"He can't quite get his body to do what he wants it to do," Judah explains, "so he's always walking a bit like he's on hot coals. Sometimes he wants to go one way, but he ends up going the other way. Whichever way, he always ends up where the treats are!"

A Best Friends specialty. The fact is these little guys are all having a wonderful time. They were in pretty rough shape when they first arrived, but the TLC Club is their very special place. They have ramps so they can get up and down okay, an indoor-outdoor day area, and separate nighttime accommodations for the ones who need lots of towels instead of kitty litter.

The TLC Club is a real Best Friends specialty. Here in



Eve and the flying Tong!

the beautifully peaceful atmosphere of Angel Canyon, these physically impaired cats can truly live "happily ever after." Their bodies may be impaired, but their spirits fly high.

The cats at the TLC Club are provided for through the Best Friends Guardian Angel Program, which takes care of all the dogs and cats and other animals who need extra medical attention and lots of special TLC.

If you can be one of our Guardian Angels, just send in the form on the inside front cover of this magazine. It's like waving a magic wand to turn these wonderful pets' lives around! 🐾

Satchmo lost an ear when he was homeless and keeping warm under a car hood at the wrong time. He's a TLC charter member!

