



WEST MEADE NEWS



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Julia Duke, with a few adoptable friends.
Photo by Brenda Batey

By Brenda Batey
Social Editor

Felines frolic all over Julia Duke's den, where she currently has nine kittens in residence as she seeks homes for them.

Duke, who owns The Privileged Pet, a pet sitting business, spends all her spare time rescuing cats from high-kill shelters and finding good homes for them.

Since a successful pet adoption event at HCA's corporate offices at the end of June, Duke has found homes for six additional cats and more are pending.

Duke has been able to take in 14 new kittens and one adult because of her success in placing cats through the adoption event, word of mouth and her petfinder

Web site.

"It is particularly important to find homes for cats and kittens now, because it is 'kitten season,' which means there are so many kittens being born and there just aren't enough people to take them in," Duke said. "Shelters are having to euthanize enormous numbers of cats right now and I just try to help where I can."

Helping Duke care for the cats she rescues are three foster parents, who take some of the cats into their homes until they can be adopted. Duke would like to have two more foster parents to work with her.

"Fosters provide food, care and love for the cats until they are adopted," said

Animal rescuers have hands full as Nashville enters 'kitten season'

Duke. "When they get a new home, the foster parent can help introduce the kitties to the prospective parents. In fact, they can help approve who adopts the cats, if they wish."

For more information and to see cats available for adoption visit theprivilegedpet.petfinder.com.

For details about dogs that can be adopted, visit Duke's associates' Web sites: crittercavalry.petfinder.com or kimber-skritters.petfinder.com.

To find out about setting up a pet adoption event for your company or to become a pet foster parent with Duke, call 354-5611 or e-mail theprivilegedpet@aol.com.

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