



# WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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637 Wyckoff Ave., Suite 336, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 • [www.winnfelinefoundation.org](http://www.winnfelinefoundation.org)  
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## Winn Feline Foundation: 46 Years and Counting

By Betty White and Joan Miller

The Winn Feline Foundation celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 1993 Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The joyous tone of the celebration was set by Joan Miller, then president of Winn, with a champagne toast to loyal donors and the foundation itself. Her words resonate to this day:

“An anniversary always has special meaning. For the Winn Foundation, it signifies a platform reached: We made it, we've accomplished something, we've grown, we still care, we look back and can remember, we are ready for the next step. “The ancient symbolism associated with a tree provides a metaphor for our organization. Twenty-five years ago we started with a small seed—an idea that was put forth by Richard Gebhardt, then CFA's president. He intended to find a way to increase CFA's prominence and also enable the association to give something back to cats. The CFA Foundation was founded in December 1968.

“The seed of an idea was then planted by Robert Winn, CFA's longtime attorney and advisor. As the first CFA Foundation president, he established our goals and principles. His vision was to be not just another fund-raising group, but one that was different. We would limit grants only to medical studies benefiting cats...” When he died in 1971, the foundation was renamed in his honor.

“Ever since, this tree has been nurtured by many people—especially Rosemonde S. Peltz, MD, who was president for six years during the early development period. All of our past and present board members have kept the foundation's principles intact. Some of the original goals have been reached. And now our trunk is strong and our roots go deep; our branches has extended and we are confident of the influence the Winn Foundation has had on improving feline veterinary medicine.

“The fullness of our tree now provides protection for all cats. There are some twists and turns in its form, and it remains flexible and bending... We know it can withstand droughts and wind without breaking. The toast we offer tonight is to you—our donors, the clubs, the corporations, our medical advisors and CFA, its board and staff.

“Without the support of you, the individuals who believe in the Winn Foundation and know the need for its work, we could not continue. You give us the momentum to keep striving. Your donations include not only money but time, ideas, enthusiasm, influence, responsiveness. The appreciation that is felt with every contribution received is the encouragement needed for the Winn Foundation's continuing growth and strength.

Tonight's toast is also to the foundation itself. It has become an entity with an independent existence. It has achieved the dignity of an organization with history and the uniqueness of a special tree.”

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The Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] established by The Cat Fancier's Association.  
Member Combined Federal Campaign #10321



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In 1968, what eventually became the Winn Feline Foundation was founded “to promote the health and welfare of cats by developing or participating in projects for their betterment, including the contribution of funds for research and education.”

As Winn celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, it was appropriate to note the important milestones reached along the way—

Highlights that demonstrate the foundation’s coming of age as a leading advocate for improvements in feline medicine. The years since have continued that remarkable tradition of leadership in feline advocacy.

*Now it is on to planning for a wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the year 2018!*

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