

## Scratching Post Cat Rescue

Back in 2005, Shelley Shircliff started rescuing cats in the Miami County area. Starting out of her personal home, her organization grew fast. Shelly's husband soon built a small house in her backyard to accommodate for the growing need. Just focusing on cats with litters in the beginning, she still soon had up to 30 adult cats, plus kittens. Shelley was calling the organization, Shelley's Cat Haven. When she got her 501(c)(3) in 2013, the organization's name became the Scratching Post Cat Rescue.

The town of Peru and all of Miami County notice the vast number of stray cats with nowhere to go. The Scratching Post Cat Rescue was an obvious need, and their goal is to help as many strays as possible. The organization provide foster care, exceptional vet care, and finds loving homes to place the cats in. When the cats and/or kittens first arrive at the shelter, they enter an isolation room. Once they have been tested, vaccinated, dewormed, spayed/neutered, and deemed healthy, the cat can then join the others!

The organization moved out of Shelley's house in 2016 to their new location, 600 Chili Avenue in Peru, IN. After the Scratching Post's open house in July of that same year, news of the organization spread throughout the area. The Rescue began working with other groups and individuals, including the Northern Indiana Community Foundation. All while rescuing cats, the organization was raising community awareness and involvement as well.

Scratching Post Cat Rescue operates solely on donations, and they are extremely thankful for those in the community who support them. The organization now has a board and approximately ten volunteers to staff. As of right now, the organization is limited to appointment only due to limited funding.

The values of Scratching Post Cat Rescue are shared by almost all of those in the community. The rescue has already saved the lives of hundreds of cats and looks forward to continuing that mission.

