

## Kitten with two faces charms family

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A furry freak of nature turned into a rallying cause for a Livonia family.

On Aug. 19, the Ross' family cat, Carlyle, gave birth to four kittens, which is not unusual except the last one to emerge bore two faces. Shadow lived four days before dying Aug. 23.

"When I would tell people, they would say, 'C'mon ... How gross,'" Tom Ross said. "When they would see it, they would say 'Aw, how cute.'"

"They were all rooting for it to live because it would have been an interesting cat to have."

The oddity sparked interest in Ross' household. Family stopped by the Parkdale home to see the curiosity.

The animal shared one skull and brain, but had four eyes and two mouths. When Shadow yawned, both mouths opened simultaneously but the cry only came from one, Ross said.

Shadow was the last born in the litter and weighed 3.36 ounces. Ross and wife Maralee tried to keep the kitten alive by feeding it with an eye dropper after the mother ignored it.

"Nature was probably taking its course," Ross said. "Maybe the mother realized it wasn't going to live that long."

Ross researched the probability of such a deformity on the Internet. A pathologist with Michigan State University's Animal Health Diagnostic Lab said the congenital malformation likely occurred early in the embryonic process.

A virus or exposure to toxic substance can be a factor in such abnormalities, Dr. Ben Yamini said. Without examining the animal in this case, he would be guessing at a cause.

In 26 years, the pathologist has encountered other unusual cases such as two-headed calves.

"It's very, very rare," said Yamini, who works in AHDL's patho-biology investigative department. "... I've never seen one in a cat."

Ross e-mailed a Philadelphia Physicians College staff member, who is interested in possibly examining the dead kitten. The kitten's remains are being kept in the family's freezer. He wants a hospital to use the dead animal for research.

The remaining three kittens are fine. The family has to wait a few more weeks before adopting them out.

The mother is a 2 1/2-year-old stray the Ross family found as a kitten in northwest Detroit. This is Carlyle's third litter.

## MOVERS & SHAKERS

### New staff at Hermanoff

Danielle Aboud and Robert Griffin have joined the staff at Hermanoff & Associates, a full-service public relations firm.

Aboud has been hired as an account executive who provides support to various financial, healthcare and food and beverage clients.

Griffin has designed creative advertising for such companies as 20th Century Fox, Tri-Star Pictures, MAACO and Chrysler Corporation.

### New chiropractor

Dr. David M. Jacobs, doctor of chiropractic, announces the grand opening of his new practice, located at 28800 W. Eight Mile Road, between Grand River Avenue and Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills, in the Kotila professional building.

### New chief appointed

The board of directors of Design Systems Inc. in Farmington Hills appointed Albert Seghi Chief Executive Officer. Design

Systems provides specialty engineering and facility consulting for manufacturing and assembly operations worldwide.

### New hires/promotions

Marx Layne & Company, a full-service marketing and public relations agency in Farmington Hills, announces the following new employees and promotions:

■ Jessica Straka - account executive for automotive, hospitality and non-profit industries.

■ Elizabeth Scales - account assistant for hospitality, non-profit and technology industries.

■ Kathy Kelley - promoted to chief financial officer.

### Auto Club vice president

Linda Woolwine of Farmington Hills was named vice president of travel for The Auto Club Group, the non-profit holding group for AAA Michigan, AAA Chicago Motor Club, AAA Wisconsin, AAA Nebraska and AAA North Dakota. She is responsible

for directing the travel agency operations of all five auto clubs.

### Campbell treasurer

Michael Laido, vice president of Campbell Development Company in Farmington Hills, has been promoted to treasurer. Campbell Development is the R&D arm of H.F. Campbell Company, a nationally prominent general contracting firm.

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