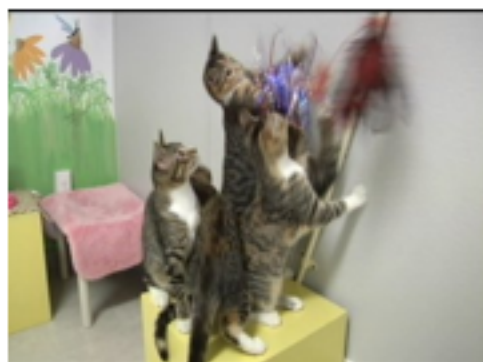


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Cat Cam the New Craze

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New technology just adopted at the Clinton Humane Society is expected to help CAT-apult the number of pet adoptions. It allows people around the world to interact with the animals over the web and the Clinton Humane Society is one of only five shelters around the world to have it.

"People all around the country, all around the world, and in 117 countries can get on a computer and get to our site. They can interact and play with the kittens through the computer," said Ed O'Neill, a humane society board member. Clinton was chosen by the Idaho-based technology company, Apriori, to be one in a handful of shelters to initially adopt the system. It took several months to build everything and most of the equipment and work was donated. On the site visitors can see everything happening live in the cat play room. With a control pad on the page users can move several robotic toys and the camera. It puts the cats in a more natural setting which O'Neill says also allows them to show their personalities.

The video streams live to an infinite number of users. It can even be beneficial to those behind the screen. "People in nursing homes who can no longer have pets can come to this site and play with these kittens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year," add O'Neill.

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The cats get exercise and socialized. Like a lot of animal shelters Clinton consistently has few vacancies, so the main goal is to boost adoptions and donations. Within a day of the launch on Monday the cats were causing a feline frenzy. Board members pointed out a comment from someone in France using the site.

The web page will also have spots for sponsors which board members hope will eventually bring in extra funds for the humane society. Visit the iPet Companion at: www.clintonhumanesociety.org

