

A close-up photograph of a horse's coat. On the left side, there is a white blaze that runs down the horse's face. The rest of the coat is a rich, warm orange-brown color. The hair is long and appears to be blowing in the wind, creating a sense of movement and texture.

Hadley's Happy Ending

By Sue Stauffacher

DESIGNED BY JENNIFER ROON WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENN ANIBAL

This book is dedicated to my mother, Joan Stauffacher, who taught me and my sisters from a young age to love all creatures great and small.

And to all those who treat animals with compassion and care.

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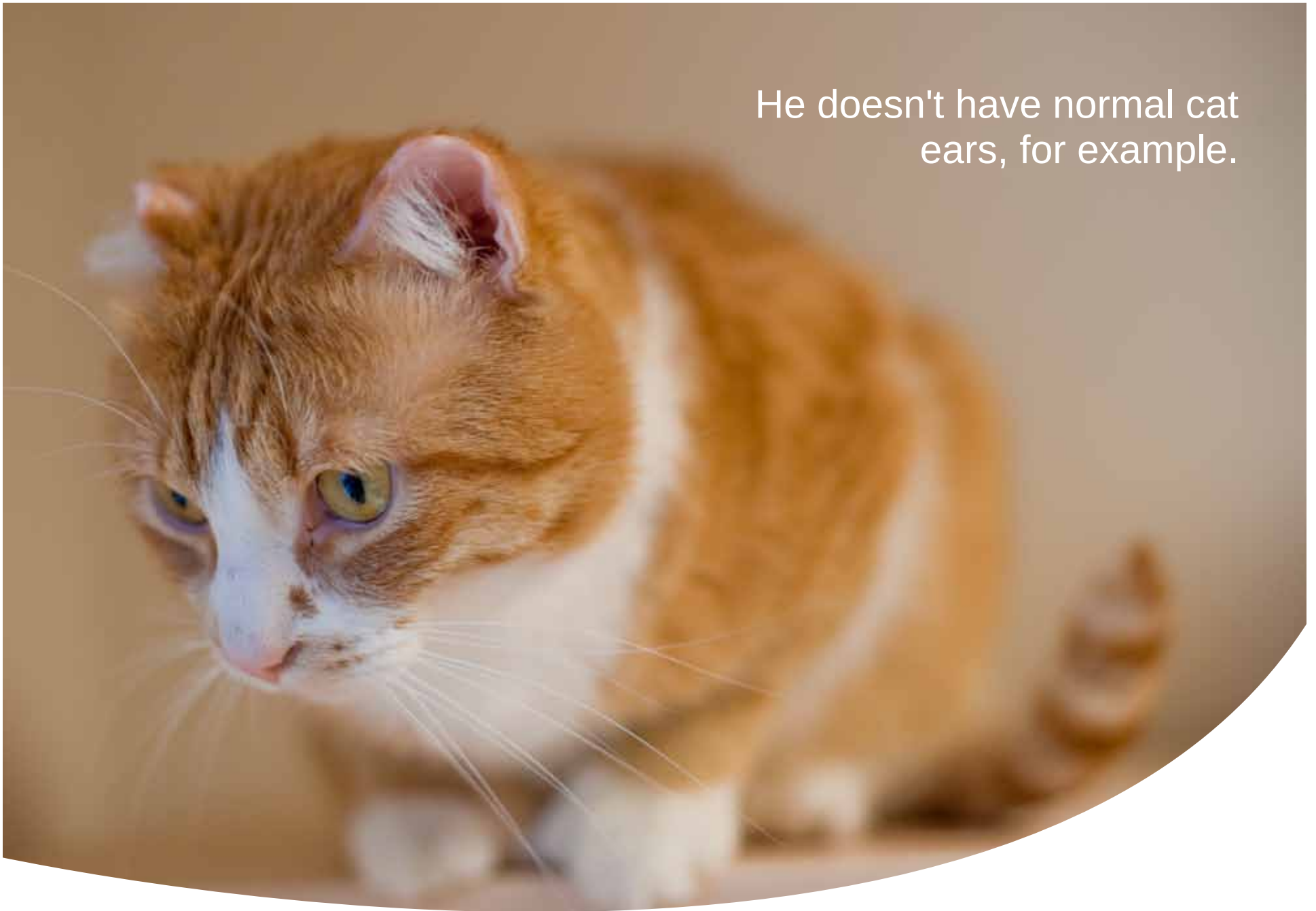
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This is Hadley.

Hadley is not an ordinary cat.

He doesn't have normal cat ears, for example.



A close-up photograph of a ginger cat's face, focusing on the forehead and eye area. The cat has orange and white fur. A distinct patch of pinkish skin is visible on the bridge of its forehead, between its eyes, where fur is absent. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.


And he has skin where most
cats have fur.

Once upon a time, Hadley was a normal cat, like Buster here.





He lived in a home with his human companions. He was playful and curious—and he loved to hunt! Mice, feathers, dustballs...if it moved, Hadley chased it.



When he was a year and a half old,
Hadley was badly injured. It happened
outside, and no one saw it.

The veterinarians at the animal hospital told Hadley's owners that he had been set on fire. Poor Hadley was so severely burned, the vets didn't know if he would survive. To treat him would cost thousands of dollars.





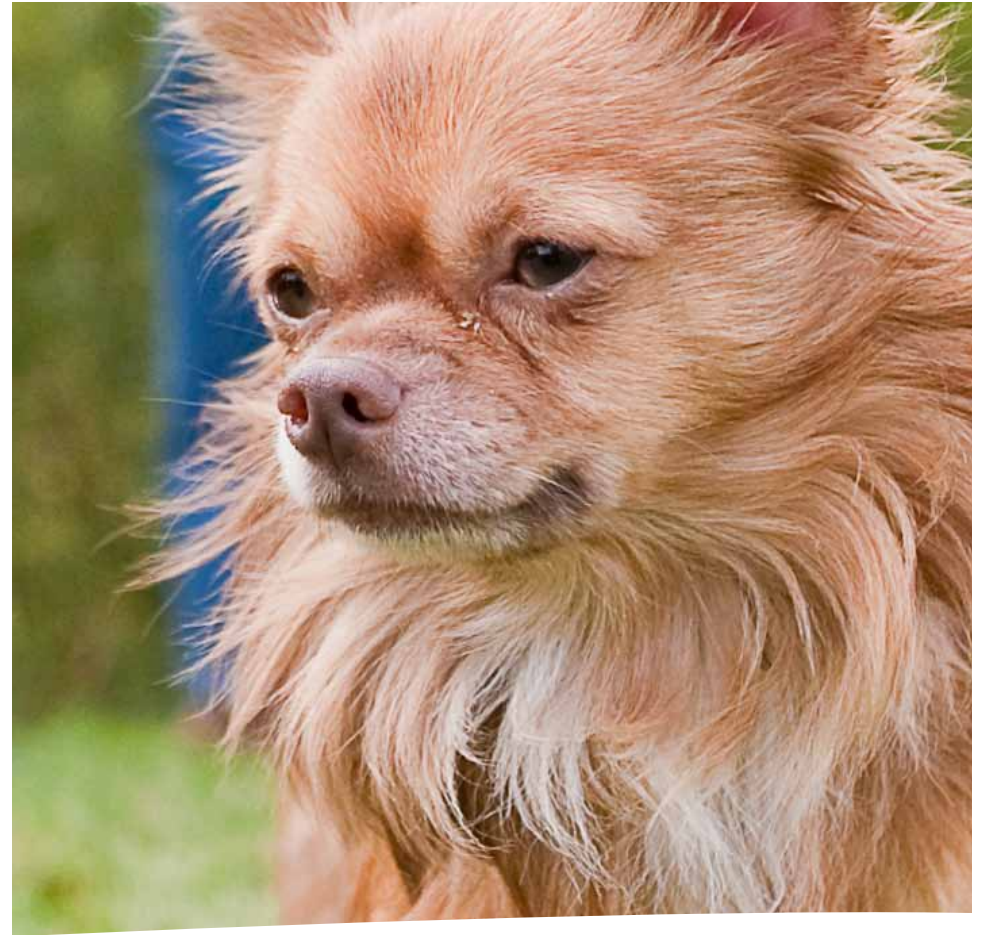
What could they do? His family loved Hadley, but they didn't have that kind of money. Even though they didn't want to give Hadley up, they brought him to the Humane Society of West Michigan (HSWM) to see if they could help.





Hadley had come to the right place.

Humane Societies exist to reduce suffering and promote the well-being of the animals that live all around us. To be “humane” means to be compassionate, sympathetic, and considerate to animals as well as to humans.



If they possibly can, the Humane Society of West Michigan provides compassionate care for animals like Hadley.



Not every badly injured animal has the will to live. But no matter how bad it got in those first few days, Hadley could always manage to cuddle up to his caregivers and purr. This was how the staff at HSWM knew Hadley wanted to keep fighting.

But it wasn't that simple. Over the course of many months, Hadley would require a small army of vets, caregivers and volunteers to donate their free time to dress his wounds and keep his burns free from infection. He also needed people in the community to donate money to pay for his medicine and other costs.





Above and beyond all that, Hadley needed love.

When an animal has been so badly injured by humans, it is sometimes hard to trust again.

Hadley couldn't ask for help. But when his story was broadcast on the evening news, people responded. They sent get well cards and checks to help pay for Hadley's care. They called to see if they could adopt Hadley and give him a loving home.



Something wonderful and unexpected happened, too—Hadley fell in love! Minnie's leg had been damaged by a car engine. As they recovered together, Hadley and Minnie became inseparable.





Hadley and Minnie are just two of the nearly 5,000 animals cared for by the dedicated and caring staff and volunteers at HSWM last year. Most are cats and dogs, but rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles—even a bearded dragon found temporary shelter here.

The Humane Society of West Michigan relies on donations of time and money from people and organizations who believe in their mission: To promote the humane treatment and responsible care of animals in West Michigan through education, example, placement and protection.

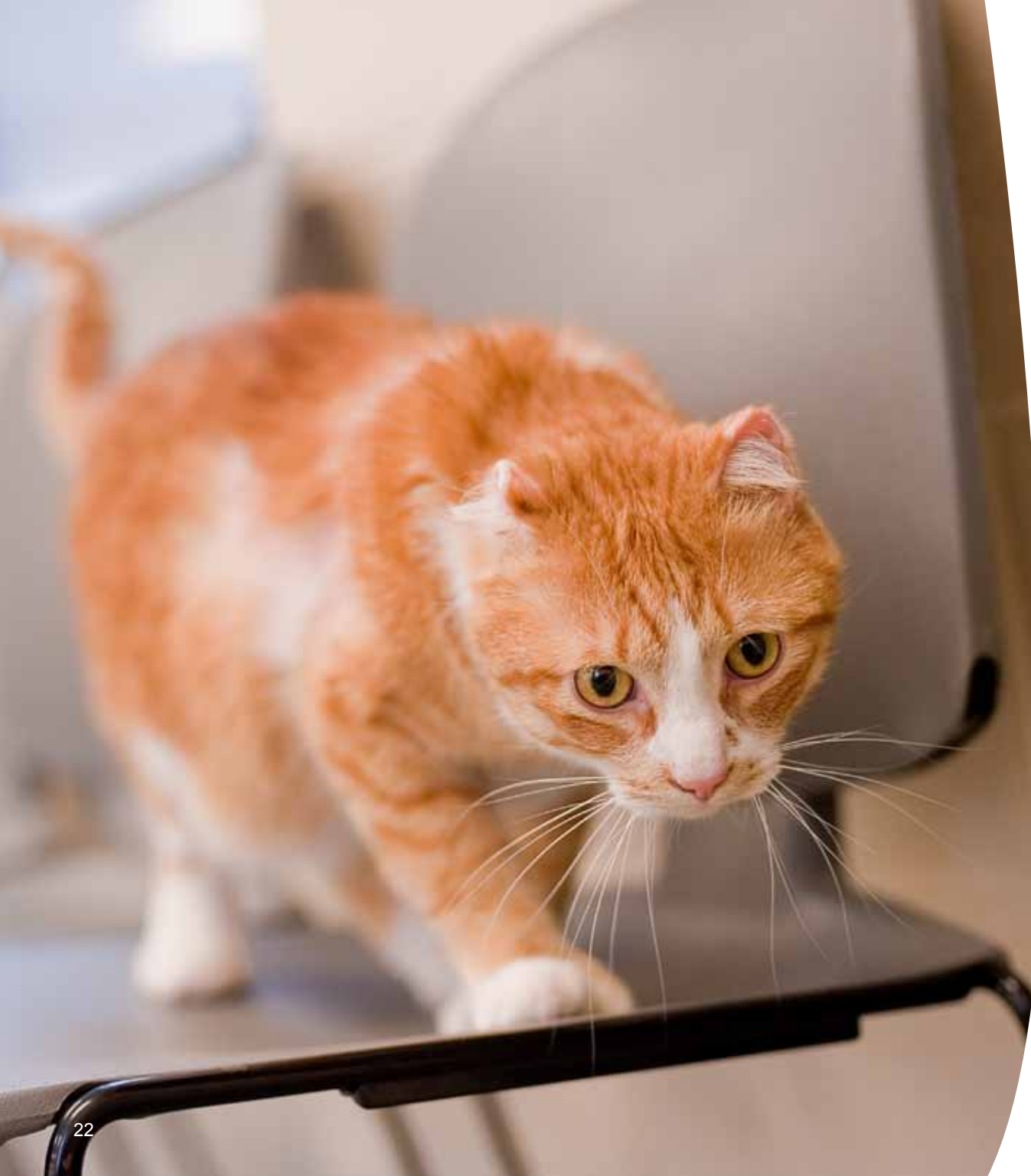




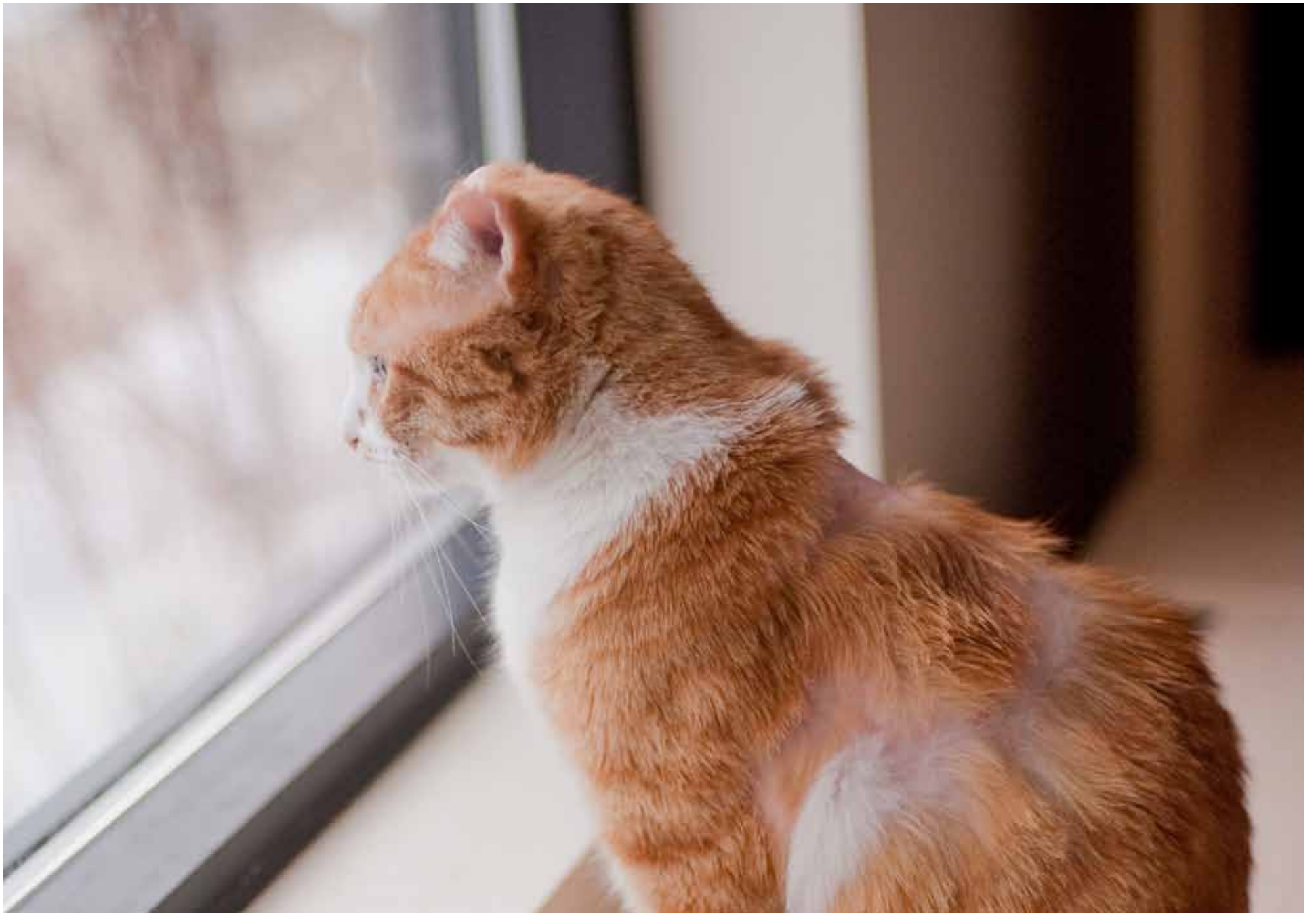
With the goal of helping every animal in their care find the right “forever home,” the Humane Society of West Michigan makes sure animals are healthy and ready to be adopted.



They also provide a special place for people to meet and interact with the animals.



Because Hadley had been so badly hurt, he had to wait much longer than the other cats for his forever home. When it was time, the Humane Society staff searched to find that special caregiver who could take care of Hadley's medical needs and adopt his best friend Minnie, too. It took months to complete, but finally the search was over.





Today, if you visit Hadley and Minnie in their new home, he might be snuggling up to Sarah, his human buddy, or just hanging out with his new playmates, Agnes and Jack.



Everyone gets along great. They've even learned to share the toys.



Hadley will never be an ordinary cat. Sometimes he has to wear a sweater to protect the scratches on his skin.

But because so many people cared, he is healed and happy in his forever home.

And that's a happy ending.



Dogs, cats and other animals in need come to the Humane Society of West Michigan every day. Hadley and Minnie were two of nearly 1,800 pets who found their forever homes through the Humane Society last year. Here's how you can extend Hadley's happy ending to more animals in need.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will help to feed and care for animals waiting for their forever homes. You can learn more at www.hswestmi.org or follow the organization on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hswestmi. For more information about how you can support the Humane Society of West Michigan, please visit the website or call (616) 453-8900.



Where the broken road ends...

in love





Sue Stauffacher is the author of more than a dozen books for children, almost exclusively for Knopf and Crown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's books. *Animal Rescue Team*, her most recent series, is filled with entertaining and educational stories about a family of urban wildlife rehabilitators who work closely with their Humane Society—perfect for young animal lovers. Sue lives with her family and her beloved companion animals, Sophie and Tillie, both adopted from the Humane Society of West Michigan, as well as her rescued cat, Fig. Sue is donating 100% of her proceeds to benefit the Humane Society of West Michigan's efforts.

Visit her online at www.suestauffacher.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ssbooks.

Sue wishes to acknowledge her dedicated team of professionals and volunteers. Photographer Jenn Anibal and designer Jenn Roon went above and beyond in making this a beautiful book. Humane Society staff and volunteers Meg Disselkoen, Roger Gilles, Katie Hutchins (for Hadley's home pics), Beth Leeson, Emily Oxford, the Melville family—Rachel, Nick, Jalen and Serenity; the Outhier family—Nikki, Logan and Liam Outhier. Special thanks to Dr. Wendy Swift, Hadley's forever vet; and Sarah Uzarski, Hadley's owner. And a huge thank you to Melissa Wikman, without whom this book would not have come to fruition.